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THE INDEPENDENT

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32-PAGE NEWS SECTION



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Fay Weldon: what a devil!

MONDAY REVIEW FRONT



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8-PAGE NETWORK SECTION

Brown and Blair clash in Post sale

THE CABINET is split over privatisation of the Post Office as Gordon Brown lines up with Labour backbenchers to oppose Tony Blair's plans for a sell-off. The issue could prove to be the toughest test yet for the uneasy relationship between the Prime Minister and his Chancellor.

Despite claims to the contrary, senior Treasury sources yesterday insisted that Mr Brown was opposed to a partial privatisation of the organisation. That puts him on a collision course with No 10, which favours the move.

The Brown camp indicated yesterday that claims of conflict between the Chancellor and Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, were wrong and had been floated by supporters of Mr Blair seeking to capitalise on disagreements between the Chancellor and his allies.

It is understood that Mr Brown is seeking "greater commercial freedom" for the Post Office, but will resist attempts to seek buyers for a 49 per cent share. However, Downing Street still favours the sell-off which would provide a privatisation too far for the Conservatives. Michael Heseltine was defeated on the issue in 1994 because Tory backbenchers refused to back him.

The issue raises strong emotions on all sides. While Mr Blair and his policy unit may see this as a chance to take on the unions, feelings are running high in the Commons.

BY BARRIE CLEMENT AND FRAN ABRAMS

When Mr Brown spoke to Labour MPs last week, several voiced opposition even to partial privatisation.

"The postal service has been publicly owned since 1630. It's part of the social fabric of this country. To sell it off would look completely hypocritical against it in 1994," one MP said.

Talks between the Post Office, the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry are under way as part of a review whose results are due to be announced in the autumn. However, senior Post Office managers have registered their frustration over the Government's continuing indecision.

Under one possible option, the state-owned company would be able to borrow from the private capital markets. Unions argued that the Treasury could gain up to £2bn in revenues before the next election if it gave the Post Office this freedom.

Because the accounting system governing state borrowing has been changed, loans to the Post Office for capital investment will no longer be part of what used to be called the public-sector borrowing requirement. It had been thought that the Treasury might oppose commercial freedom because it would place a burden on the PSBR.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Communication Workers Union declared their surprise at weekend reports that the Chancellor was seeking a share sale. It is understood that Derek Hodgson, general secretary of the union, came away from a recent private meeting with Mr Brown under the impression that the option had been dropped. The union was subsequently told by sources at the DTI that the Treasury was insisting on partial privatisation.

Mr Hodgson has now written to the Chancellor asking for confirmation that the Post Office will remain under 100 per cent state ownership.

"I don't believe they can be serious about this. It did not appear in the manifesto, it would backtrack on pre-election promises and there are no logical reasons for doing it," Mr Hodgson said.

Privately, the union is angry about the possibility of a sale and would even contemplate industrial action to stop it.

Friends of Mr Brown have denied claims that the Chancellor was involved in a bitter battle on the issue with Mrs Beckett, who is opposed to partial privatisation. Their close political friendship has also come under strain over the issue of the national minimum wage. Mrs Beckett wanted to implement all the Low Pay Commission's recommendations but Mr Brown insisted on a lower rate for more young people.

There has been increasing speculation that Mr Brown has been garnering support throughout the Labour Party in pursuit of a long-term plan to supplant the Prime Minister.

You know it's summer when ... the fountains are in full flow



... the parks are in full bloom



... and England are in full retreat



Scenes from English summer (from top): Tourists frolic in Trafalgar Square, flower-fanciers seek the shade; England's cricket captain Alec Stewart takes the long walk back to the pavilion as his side are beaten at Lord's by South Africa

Day-after Pill may be sold over counter

THE MORNING after pill could soon be on sale in chemists' shops after ministers confirmed that they were prepared to consider the move to help cut unwanted pregnancies.

Although they stressed that there was still a long way to go, campaigners urging the Government to make emergency contraception easier to get were optimistic. Until now it has only been available on prescription from a doctor or clinic.

The change could be introduced under new rules which will allow pharmacists to sell drugs prescribed in batches by GPs. Schering Health Care, which makes the contraceptives, plans to apply to make them available through the new route.

Last night the public health minister, Tessa Jowell, said safeguards would have to be put in place to prevent teenagers from using the drugs as routine contraception.

"If they were to be made available it would have to be within the context of advice and support. There can be no question of this being simply like going to buy a bottle of aspirin," she said.

The campaign to make the pills easier to get was launched 10 days ago by the Birth Control Trust, with the backing of MPs including Dr Jenny Tonge, Liberal Democrat member for Richmond Park and a former family planning doctor.

Other organisations which support the move include the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

They said Britain had the worst record of unwanted pregnancies in Europe, with 7,500 under-16s becoming pregnant each year. Half of them have abortions, and the reformers say many teenagers would

BY FRAN ABRAMS Westminster Correspondent

avoid this trauma if they could buy the contraceptives.

Figures released by the Government last week showed that the use of the pills, which can be taken up to 72 hours after unprotected sex, had almost doubled in the past five years.

In 1993 around 380,000 women sought emergency contraception, but by 1997 the figure had risen to around 730,000. The cost of the drugs to the health service had also risen rapidly.

Dr Tonge said the emergency pills were very safe and,



Tessa Jowell: advice and support should be offered

at around £10 per time across the chemists' counter, would be too expensive to be abused by many teenagers.

"You get younger women who really aren't brave enough to run the gauntlet of a family planning clinic or a clinic. Teenagers can buy sufficient aspirin or paracetamol from a petrol station to do themselves gross harm, yet this method, which could save so much trauma, is not easily available," she said.

The shadow health spokesman, Ann Widdecombe, said she would oppose the move. The NHS should have other priorities, she said.

Air traffic control system in 'mayhem'

BRITAIN'S AIR traffic control system, due to be privatised in 2000, has been thrown into "mayhem" a record 18 times since February as controllers struggle to cope with an ever-increasing number of flights.

On one occasion earlier this year, the system "degenerated into chaos". The incident occurred when more than 50 planes entered an area only designed to cope with 40 aircraft.

In a letter, obtained by The Independent, to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) a controller stated that on 26 April: "We had over 50 aircraft entering a sector that was already full. There was no safe place to put the new aircraft."

Only 12 such cases of over-

BY RANDEEP RAMESH Transport Correspondent

load - lodged when controllers believe the number of aircraft they are handling means they could lose the ability to separate them safely - were recorded last year. At this rate there are likely to be a record 40 such instances in 1998.

With air traffic set to grow by 6 per cent a year, things are unlikely to improve. "The worse sector is Clacton at the moment," said Bob Neville, who works at the busy West Drayton centre and is also a representative for the air traffic controllers' union IPMS. "This has all the northern European traffic. Things are pretty bad

over the Irish Sea and the Dover sector."

The union said it was only 18 months ago that two jets carrying hundreds of passengers were "minutes away" from a collision after a controller had been too busy coping with a particularly crowded piece of airspace. The official inquiry that followed estimated there was "37 per cent" excess traffic but said this was "exceptional".

"It doesn't appear to be exceptional less than two years later on," said Joe Magee, aviation officer for the IPMS.

A CAA spokesman said "overload limits have built in safety margins". "British airspace is four times safer than the world average," he said.

Clinton calls

IN AN act of consummate popular diplomacy, President Bill Clinton yesterday used the US-Iran clash on the football field to make a direct appeal for an end to the 20-year diplomatic standoff between the two countries.

In a pre-recorded message, broadcast on international television during half-time, Mr Clinton said that he and the Iranian President, Mohammad

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

Khatami, had been working to encourage more people-to-people exchanges.

Mr Clinton's message was the latest step in a slow warming of US policy towards Iran. Last week the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, skewed a speech on Asia poli-

cy to say it was time to develop a normal relationship.

Her speech was the US Administration's first considered response to a television interview given by President Khatami on CNN more than four months before, in which he had called for an end to the hostility with the US and proposed

in his half-time

start, more non-diplomatic exchanges. US policy was to call for a resumption of diplomatic relations before further exchanges.

Relations were broken off in 1979, after Iranian revolutionary guards took more than 50 diplomats hostage at the US embassy in Tehran.

Since Mr Khatami's interview, US officials have insisted

that "deeds not words" were needed before there could be any substantial change in policy.

However, Mr Clinton gave hints that he favoured a more positive response to President Khatami's overture, quietly encouraging private visits by US citizens to Iran and receiving at the White House members of a US wrestling team that visited Iran two months ago.

The timing of Ms Albright's address, days before the World Cup tie, was seen as an attempt to defuse what was seen as an inevitably tricky diplomatic encounter.

While both nations had appeared keen to play down the political dimension of yesterday's clash, they were also acutely aware of what was at stake.

INSIDE
FULL CONTENTS
PAGE 5
TODAY'S TV
SECTION 2, PAGE 24

HOME NEWS

Two British soldiers trapped on a mountain face a fourth night in blizzard conditions

PAGE 3

POLITICS

The Government faces a battle over plans to lower the homosexual age of consent to 16

PAGE 8

FOREIGN NEWS

Monica Lewinsky is said to be ready to 'tell all' to save herself from prosecution

PAGE 10

BUSINESS

The Bank of England has warned that the stock market is in danger of overheating

PAGE 14

SPORT

Gabriel Batistuta scored the first hat-trick of the World Cup as Argentina beat Jamaica 5-0

PAGE 30



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Vintage Moment
Vintage Clicquot



Veuve Clicquot

CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

Trapped in the ice at 19,000ft, soldiers can only wait and pray



The sun setting on Mount McKinley in Alaska, where two British soldiers are trapped. Capt Featherstone (below right) was rescued after a fall as he tried to carry a fourth man

BY STEVE BOGGAN

TWO BRITISH soldiers trapped on north America's highest mountain without a tent were last night facing their fourth night in blizzard conditions after a military expedition went horribly wrong.

Rescuers were praying for a break in the weather in order to send a high-altitude helicopter to pluck Corporal Carl Bougard and Sergeant Martin Spooner from the icy slopes of Mount McKinley in Alaska.

The men, from the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment and the Army Physical Training Corps, were trapped at 19,000ft when three of a six-man team aiming for the 20,320ft peak fell down an ice chute known to climbers as the Orient Express.

After the accident last Thursday, two of the group, Captain Phil Whitfield, 23, of the Royal Marines, and Sgt Johny Johnstone, 33, of the Parachute Regiment set off for base camp at 14,500ft to seek help while Capt Justin Featherstone, 28, the Princess of Wales team leader, waited with the remaining three men injured in the fall.

However, the condition of one - Cpl Steve Brown, 26, of 22 Engineer Regiment, who suffered head injuries - began to deteriorate and Capt Featherstone decided to try to carry



him down the snow-covered mountainside. But disaster struck again at 17,000ft when the latter lost his footing and fell about 2,000ft down the slope with Cpl Brown.

"Both men were incredibly lucky to survive the fall," said Jane Tranel of the National Park Service. "Mr Featherstone is thought to have a fractured left ankle and some head injuries, but luckily Mr Brown [who also has frostbite] did not suffer any more injuries than he did during his first fall."

A dozen rescuers mounted a heroic attempt to reach the two men from the 14,200ft level camp and managed to drag Mr Featherstone [to safety] using a rope.

That still left Cpl Bougard and Sgt Spooner, both 35-year-old experienced climbers,

THE COLDEST MOUNTAIN ON EARTH

ALTHOUGH NOT one of the world's top 20 highest peaks, Mt McKinley has a reputation among climbers as being arguably the coldest mountain in the world. Because it is so far north, it is subjected to icy blasts in excess of 100mph and temperatures falling to -40C.

Nevertheless, because it is the highest mountain in North America, it attracts thousands of climbers.

On Saturday, mountain rangers logged more than 300 people on its slopes. With such numbers attempting what can be a dangerous slog,

there are deaths on the mountain each year. The *Independent's* Steve Goodwin, an experienced mountaineer who last month came to within 100m of the summit of Mt Everest, said: "It doesn't have a serious 'killer mountain' reputation but it does have some extreme routes that can be tricky. Those, coupled with the low temperatures can cause problems. Four nights on a mountain without a tent has to be regarded as being very serious for these men, but people have survived longer in snowholes with the right equipment."



French-made Lama helicopter to reach the two stranded men. However, yesterday conditions were windy and snowy.

"The men don't have a tent, but they are experienced mountaineers and experts in survival," the spokesman said. "They have cold-weather gear and equipment and they will be following their training carefully, digging snowholes and so on. If the Americans can get to them, we are confident they will be OK."

If a helicopter rescue remains impossible today, a United States expedition at 17,000ft will attempt to reach the men.

The Mount McKinley incident has echoes of another ill-fated military expedition into Lows Gully, a mile-deep ravine on Mount Kinabalu in Malaysia, South-East Asia's highest mountain, in 1994. Two British officers and three Hong Kong Chinese soldiers were trapped for 16 days with only enough rations for three days. At the time they were found, following a huge rescue operation by the British and Malaysian military, medics said that they were on the point of starvation.

A Board of Inquiry later criticised the two officers, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Neill, 46, and his second-in-command Major Ron Foster, 54, for "flawed judgement", but neither was disciplined.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said yesterday that the rescuers needed only a brief window of clear weather in which to send up a special

trapped on the mountain. Sgt Spooner is thought to have a broken ankle and leg but Cpl Bougard is thought not to be injured.

Concern was growing last night because rescuers had had no radio contact with the men for two days.

Ms Tranel said: "We are hoping that mother nature is kind to us and the weather conditions improve enough for us to get a helicopter out to the men."

"Our first priority is to make contact and then to drop supplies. At the moment the men are locked in."

The trapped men were part of a 10-strong expedition aiming to be the first to climb Alaska's highest mountain and then canoe 149 miles to the sea. Three of the party on the mountain, Private Ian Hayward, 18,

Cpl Gary Keep, 27, and Lance Corporal Nigel Coar, 23, all of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, were not involved in the accident. The remaining member, Private Luke Mills, was sent home ill last week.

The wait for news has been draining for the men's loved ones. Cpl Bougard's girlfriend, Paula Wanstall, 27, said: "I felt sick when I when I found out that Carl was one of those stranded. I just started hyperventilating. I have been in a state of disbelief all day. When I first heard that some soldiers in Alaska were missing I had a really bad feeling that it would be him."

Capt Featherstone's mother, Linda, said the rescue team had done an "unbelievable job" in bringing her son back to base camp.

Speaking from the family home in Somerset, Mrs Featherstone said there was obviously a "desperate situation" on the mountain, and added: "The whole expedition went horribly wrong. I would like to know he is off the mountain and in hospital, but they have a full medical team at base camp. One of the rescuers told me: 'If you are going to fall on a mountain fall on our mountain - we have the best rescue services in the world.'"

The expedition is the latest in a series organised by Capt Featherstone to raise cash for the Barnardo's Inclusion Project in west Somerset, where his parents live. The charity enables youngsters to take part in play, leisure and sporting activities in the community. Capt Featherstone is not a

stranger to problems on Mount McKinley. In 1994 he was beaten just short of the summit by altitude sickness. He joined the Army 10 years ago and is now based in Canterbury - Kent, with the First Battalion of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment.

A qualified mountaineering and canoeing instructor, he has already been on several expeditions, which have included the Alps, Chile and Malaysia, and more were planned. "His mind is full of endless expeditions," said his mother, adding that among her son's future plans had been a trip to the Himalayas.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said yesterday that the rescuers needed only a brief window of clear weather in which to send up a special

Bill Gates is richest person

BILL GATES, the US Microsoft chief, is the world's richest man, according to a list of the world's 200 most wealthy businessmen. But not one Briton makes the top 100 of the billionaires list published by *Forbes Magazine*.

Bruno Schroder, a merchant banker, is the first British entry in the new rankings - in joint 111th place - followed by Richard Branson in 173rd. The Schroder family, which controls one of the City's oldest and most prestigious merchant banks, is estimated to be worth £1.7bn.

According to the list, which excludes dictators and royalty, Mr Gates, 42, is worth an estimated \$51bn (£31bn). Bill Gates hit the headlines last week after it was revealed that he was buying Cliveden, one of the most famous stately homes and forever associated with the Profumo scandal of the sixties.

The Bill Gates consortium has offered £42.8m for Cliveden

BY DIANA BLAMIRE

and a group of properties which also includes Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath.

The fortune of 47-year-old Virgin boss Branson is estimated at £1.16bn, followed by the Rothschild empire, with a £1.1b fortune and Sir Adrian Swire and Sir John Swire, who made their £1.1bn fortune through shipping, aviation and soft drinks.

Bringing up the rear of the list are Associated Newspapers and General Trust boss Viscount Rothermere and Garry Weston, of Association British Foods, both with £9.8bn.

Americans lead the rest of the list, with 12 entries in the top 20. They include the Walton family, which owns Wal-Mart Stores, £29bn; Michael Dell, boss of the Dell Computer Corp, £8.1bn; and the Haas family, which runs jeans giant Levi Strauss, £5bn.

THE TOP 25

- Bill Gates, US, \$51bn
- Walton family, US, \$48bn
- Warren Edward Buffett, US, \$33bn
- Paul Gardner Allen, US, \$21bn
- Oeri, Hoffman & Sacher family, Switzerland, \$17.8bn
- Quandt family, Germany, \$15.3bn
- Kenneth Thomson, Canada, \$14.4bn
- Reverend Edward Mars Sr and family, US, \$13.5bn
- Jay A and Robert A Pritzker, US, \$13.5bn
- Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Al Saud, Saudi Arabia, \$13.3bn
- Lee Shan Kee, Hong Kong, \$12.7bn
- Theo & Kari Albrecht, and family, Germany, \$11.7bn
- Haniel family, Germany, \$11.5bn
- Carl Engelhorn, Germany, \$11.5bn
- Beitzencourt family, France, \$11.4bn
- Steven Ballmer, \$10.7bn
- Gerald Muller and family, France, \$10.3bn
- Michael Dell, US, \$10bn
- Li Ka-shing, Hong Kong, \$9.8bn
- Walter Haefliger, Switzerland, \$9.4bn
- Ramilo Botin and family, Spain, \$9.2bn
- Samuel I. Newhouse Jr and family, US, \$9bn
- Philip F. Anschutz, US, \$8.8bn
- Cargill family, US, \$8.8bn
- Seydoux/Schlumberger family, France, \$8.8bn

Scientists predict 1998 is millennium scorcher

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science editor

THE LATEST global temperature measurements show that 1998 is set to be the warmest year since records began.

Each month so far has broken previous global temperature records and scientists believe this year may even be the warmest of the millennium.

Thousands of readings from satellites and weather stations across the globe have confirmed that the world has been warmer this year than at any time since 1880, when Britain's Met Office collected the first reliable measurements of global temperatures.

Scientists who have estimated temperatures from past centuries by the growth of tree rings said this spring may have been the hottest in a thousand years, despite the cold start to the British summer.

The US's National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which gathered the global temperature data, said every month from January to May "far exceeded" previous records.

In Britain, every month except April has been significantly warmer than the 30-year national average for that month. January and February were 1.5°C and 3.4°C above average respectively.

So far, the world is 0.25°C warmer than in 1997, which was the warmest year on record. Scientists said the increase, though small, is enough to suggest genuine global warming, rather than recording errors.

Scientists at the NOAA said El Niño, a disturbance in the Pacific Ocean currents which affect weather patterns across the globe, is largely responsible for the record temperatures. They said global warming might be exacerbating the phenomenon.

"El Niños are occurring more frequently and are progressively warmer. There is evidence to suggest global temperatures may be linked to stronger, more frequent El Niños," the NOAA said.

Sir John Houghton, co-chairman of the scientific committee of the International Panel on Climate Change, said the latest data on global temperatures support the international scientific consensus that human activity might be making global warming worse. "These measurements are going in the direction we expect. If we really are seeing that each month of this year is the hottest ever, it is pretty unlikely to be a chance effect," he said.

"We think the world is warming up because of the burning of fossil fuels and an increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. But at present we cannot prove this because of variability in the climate."

Some scientists dispute whether man-made gases cause global warming but Houghton believes they are wrong. "Everyone agrees that we are beginning to see the signals through the fog. These latest measurements will add to the pile of evidence in support of global warming," he said.

Scientists have shown for the first time how sunspots may be linked to changes in the weather in a breakthrough that could lead to a radical rethink in weather forecasting.

Until now, no-one has been able to explain how solar activity might affect the weather, even though records suggest an influence exists. But Professor Terry Robinson and Dr Neil Arnold at Leicester University have constructed a computer model which shows how changes in electromagnetic radiation emitted by the Sun can cause significant atmospheric changes on Earth.

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4/HOME NEWS

World Cup: Toulouse braces itself for the English invasion as old hostilities break out on the football field

Four fans arrested as police get tough

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
in Toulouse

FOUR KNOWN football hooligans were arrested in joint Anglo-French police operations yesterday as the city of Toulouse launched its biggest-ever security operation.

English spotter police identified the category C thugs – the most likely to cause trouble – and passed on information about them to the French authorities.

But their presence may be only the tip of the iceberg. Police intelligence sources said they had spotted up to 50 category B and C hooligans in Toulouse in the run-up to tonight's match against Romania.

Three fans were arrested yesterday for no particular offences but because they had been identified by English spotter police. Earlier, Martin Townsend from Manchester, one of Britain's most notorious football thugs, was stopped from entering France by customs officials at the Gard du Nord station in Paris.

In an operation which police say underlines the close co-operation between French and British forces, Mr Townsend's movements were tracked from Manchester to Paris, where he arrived on the Eurostar.

"At Paris he was spoken to by the authorities and got straight back on the train. He was not allowed to enter France because he was considered a threat to public order," a British Embassy source said.

In 1991, Townsend received a four-year prison sentence for assault causing grievous bodily harm with intent and rioting at a game. In 1989 he received a seven-year exclusion order

hanning him from football grounds.

The other three men were arrested in a Toulouse bar. A spokeswoman for the city's regional prefect said they were arrested on the basis that they were known hooligans. A decision will be made today over whether to deport them. They can be held without charge for 24 hours.

Police at ports and airports are also on the look-out for up to 90 troublemakers involved in rioting in Marseille who were captured on screen.

The approach of police in Toulouse has been markedly different from that in Marseille – officers have been much more high profile. Riot police have been patrolling the streets and there will be up to 2,000 officers on duty today, many of them reinforcements called in after the violence in Marseille. Police and local authorities in Toulouse are hopeful there will be no trouble today, when up to 12,000 English fans will be in town.

"I am more upbeat about Toulouse," said Sir Brian Hayes, security advisor to the FA. "I understand that (the French authorities) have asked for extra police and extra stewards so I think there is a whole package of things there that ought to make it better."

Police also believe that the number of sentences handed out by the authorities in Marseille have sent a clear message to other potential troublemakers. In Toulouse the mood has so far been good.



An England supporter enjoying a fresh drink yesterday at a camp ground near Toulouse, south-west France

Praise for the affable English

BY STEVE BOGGAN AND
ANDREW BUNCOMBE

ENGLAND'S UNPOPULAR football fans earned backing from an unlikely quarter yesterday – the French media.

In spite of the rioting that took place in Marseille last week, the people of Toulouse have given a warm welcome to genuine fans who have travelled not for trouble, but for football.

The highest praise for the real supporters came from *La Depeche*, the leading regional newspaper.

Beneath a headline which read: "You could even see children smiling..." reported Philippe Lauga.

"The English have not been taken over by psychosis, even if a lot of people will be staying at home on Monday."

"Yesterday, you could bump into some very English English fans – civilised, affable and smiling, the kind of English who invented humour, football and stadiums without fences, who prefer claret to lager, are cool-headed not hot-headed and who, from Byron to Cantona, have always venerated poets."

"The hooligans do exist and disorder could break out at any moment. But, knowing that it is a matter of just a small minority of supporters, we can have confidence in the forces of law and order who have been working to prepare for any trouble for some time now."

"It is a weekend of risk, but there is no fear in the town. The people of Toulouse have realised that not all English fans are hooligans."

However, not everyone is quite so happy with the arrival of the English.

The threat of hooliganism has led local authorities to order all city centre restaurants and bars to shut at 11pm – two hours earlier than usual – with the threat of fines of up to £1,500 for every hour they stay open beyond the curfew.

Prostitutes, too, are unhappy. "The Japanese men that come here are all very gentlemanly but the Englishmen have caused us much trouble," said Dominique, 40, one of several prostitutes who works the city's Boulevard de Strasbourg.

"The shutting of the bars is bad for business," she said.

"I have lost a lot of money this week and so have all the other girls."

"There has certainly been a lot less custom than normal," she added.

Love of the game unites the great Satan and the underdog

BY DARIUS SANAI
in Lyons

"I'M BEHIND you," said the Moroccan man in the *croque monsieur* stand at Lyons' Perrache station. "The whole Muslim community is behind you. *Allez Iran!*"

Walking through the elegant streets of Lyons yesterday you would have been forgiven for thinking Iran was the world superpower and America the

underdog pariah. The central Place Carnot was awash with the red, white and green of Iranian flags, caps and T-shirts, the air full of folk songs and chants. McDonald's and Quick Burger were buzzing with the Farsi conversational equivalent

of "d'you think they'll play Anderton or Beckham tonight?"

In a scene straight out of French National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen's nightmares, the streets of France's third city were emptied of white faces: the white French appeared to have gone away for the weekend, and the few Americans wandering around seemed bemused by the vociferous and humorous choruses of "oolah-Mahdaviakia" belted out by the (considerable contingent) of Manchester United supporting Iranian fans.

By Pizza Pino, a young Iranian couple with matching face-paint stopped a bunch of star-spangled-bannered Americans for a photo-shoot. They stood together, flag next to flag, a gendarme clicked, and history of a sort was made: after the snap they exchanged handshakes, hugs and agreements that the best team should win.

It was, for many, something

of a catharsis, though through cultural pervasion and travel, Iranians know Americans a lot better than many Americans know Iran.

"You come here from Iran?" a flag-bedecked North Carolinian inquired of me in the wash rooms of the Hippo Grill. No, London really, but I was born in Iran. "Well, ya speak really good English!" he said, grinning cheerily and shaking my hand.

Outside, three Iranian dudes with Raybans and slicked back hair were courting a group of giggling, all-American cheerleader types. "That one's really cute," they agreed. The football seemed irrelevant.

What had been billed as a great reconciliation, or a great confrontation (depending on who you believed), was certainly not the latter and perhaps for some people, it will be a new beginning.

Many of the Iranians,

though, were more LA than Tehran: among the considerable contingent of female Iran supporters it was hard to spot a woman in Islamic hijab, the preferred uniform seeming to be DKNY T-shirts and Calvin Klein shorts.

In the end, it wasn't as battle of Islam against the great Satan, more a meeting of people who are more similar than some of their politicians would ever want them to believe.

Outside the stadium, a gaggle of horn-blowing, whistle-screaming Iran fans wearing tricolor hats marched down a narrow street towards a stars-and-stripes band playing the *Star Spangled Banner*.

Would there be a third Gulf War? No chance. The band and the whistles fired up again and the mixed crowd began singing "USA and Iran, USA and Iran, USA and Iran."

Iran reform setback, page 13

IN BRIEF

Boy, 4, run over by father's four-wheel-drive vehicle

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy died yesterday when he was run over by a four-wheel-drive vehicle driven by his father, police said. The tragedy happened as Ken Earlie was reversing in the driveway of his home in Kirkcaldy, Fife, yesterday morning.

Mr Earlie's son Jack is believed to have ridden out behind the vehicle on his bicycle and been caught under the wheels.

North Sea search called off

COASTGUARDS YESTERDAY called off their search for a 62-year-old diver who disappeared while exploring a wreck in the North Sea. Robert Forster, of Corby, Northants, had about two-and-a-half hours' worth of air left when he vanished off Cromer, Norfolk, at 3.30pm on Saturday. A massive search involving divers, lifeboats and helicopters failed to find any trace of Mr Forster.

Second tribute to Linda McCartney

SIR PAUL McCartney will lead a second memorial service to his late wife Linda today in New York so that friends and relatives from her native US can pay their final respects. A similar service earlier this month saw hundreds gather at a central London church, an event which became a focus for the eyes of the world.

Care home abuse report

AN INQUIRY set up to investigate the systematic abuse of mentally disabled people at two care homes is due to publish its report this week. The investigation looked into the running of the homes at Stoke Poges, Bucks, where police found evidence of mental, physical and sexual abuse.

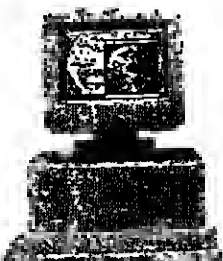
Seven share £8.2m lottery jackpot

Seven ticket holders share the £8.2m jackpot from Saturday's National Lottery draw. The winning numbers were 14, 38, 27, 31, 47, 1 and the bonus was 32.

Correction

On page 12 of *The Independent* on Saturday 20 June, it was incorrectly reported that Rolls-Royce plc, manufacturers of aero-engines had been taken over by Volkswagen. The company in question is Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

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Yachtsmen rescued from makeshift raft

THREE MEN were dramatically rescued early yesterday as the makeshift raft they had lashed together when their racing catamaran broke up in heavy seas in the Bristol Channel was about to fall apart.

An RAF rescue helicopter arrived as the three crewmembers from the yacht, who had already spent six hours in freezing waters off the north Somerset coast, had concluded they had only a slim chance of surviving.

They fired their last flare as the helicopter patrolled overhead in the darkness, and were winched one by one onto the aircraft as the water sloshed ankle-deep over their raft.

A spokesman for Swansea Coastguard, which co-ordinated the rescue on Saturday night, praised the sailors for their professionalism in preparing for such emergencies and for staying with their wrecked craft despite being driven about 20 miles by wind and tide.

Watch Manager Lee Haigh said: "This was a very close escape for these men. They were clearly well organised for such a trip and their preparation possibly saved their lives."

The yachtsmen, aero engineers Nigel Wright, 38, from Redland and Richard Varvill,

36, and university lecturer Dibros Christopolous, were out for a day's sailing in their 15ft vessel.

But within half an hour of leaving Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, they were in heavy seas and strong winds and decided to return.

Mr Christopolous said the 10-year-old boat was tacking back to Burnham when the crossbeams collapsed and one of the twin hulls broke up.

The crew – all experienced sailors and each wearing protective clothing and a lifejacket – took down the mast and lashed it to form a triangle-shaped raft with the hull pieces.

They triggered an emergency beacon which broadcast a satellite signal and fired flares in attempts to alert passing craft or shore watchers.

In the ensuing hours they alternatively stood, sat or hung on to the makeshift raft. It was completely dark when they heard the rescue helicopter overhead and fired their last major flare.

Mr Christopolous said: "The raft was going down fast and I think we had no more than an hour left. I did not think we would make it through the night. We decided our chances were slim."

Broody men go job bias warni

Passport for pets gets ambassador's backing



Pavel Seifter celebrating the 'liberty and joy' of the release from quarantine of his 11-year-old schnauzer, Cutty

Justin Williams

THE DAPPER Pavel Seifter, 60-year-old ambassador of the Czech republic to the Court of St James's, is used to achieving the impossible. For many years before the velvet revolution of 1989, he worked as a window cleaner in Prague.

He had been sacked as a university lecturer after the Soviet invasion of 1968 for refusing to tell lies. Twenty years later, he was still cleaning windows - even as he gave interviews to foreign journalists during the peaceful rebellion that ended one-party rule.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Seifter will be equally successful in his discreet attempts to expose what he sees as the ludicrousness of British quarantine laws.

Dozens of dogs - wolfhounds, greyhounds, basset hounds, Jack Russells, golden retrievers, you-name-it - gathered on the manicured lawns of the ambassador's Hampstead residence yesterday, to celebrate the 'liberty and joy' of the release from six months' quarantine of the ambassador's 11-year-old

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

schnauzer, Cutty (short for Calamity).

The party also celebrated the emergence from quarantine of Eddie the French bulldog, belonging to the embassy counsellor, Zdena Gahalova.

Both Mr Seifter and Ms Gahalova were keen to insist that, as foreign diplomats, they would not dream of criticising existing British law. None the less, the message was clear yesterday, even in the embossed card that arrived for "Mr Steve Crawshaw and pet". (And yes, thank you, Dillon the three-month-old spaniel had a fine time yesterday).

Under the regulations, dogs can travel back and forth across Europe, as long as they have the appropriate vaccination certificates or "pet's passports" - but cannot come into Britain unless they are locked up for six months or, as often happens, smuggled in without any certification.

The Czechs pride themselves on their slyly-defiant attitude towards authority. At

the welcome-home party, Cutty duly won the Miss Jail-house prize for the dog that had best survived six months' quarantine. In a nostalgic reference to the politics of yesterday, another prize was for the dog that was "best able to find the hidden microphone, otherwise known as bug".

Chris Patten, former governor of Hong Kong and the most vocal critic of the quarantine laws in this country, was unable to be present, but sent a message of solidarity. Mr Patten has repeatedly emphasised the "painful and expensive farce" which means that his two Norfolk terriers, Whisky and Soda, are still living in France in order not to spend time in quarantine.

Campaigners say there has been no case of rabies in a quarantined dog for 27 years. The ambassador said that he hoped to invite Mr Patten for a special dogs' welcome party if his two terriers are finally allowed into the UK, after a change in the law. "We will hold a reception - and serve whisky and soda, naturally," he said.

Teachers threaten 'Action Zones'

UNION LEADERS last night issued an 11th-hour threat to derail central elements of the Government's flagship Education Action Zone initiative.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers said it would take immediate action if zones tried to introduce evening and weekend working or attempted to reform the school year.

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said: "We will watch them like hawks. Our members just have to come to us and we will give them full support."

The union's intervention threatens to halt some of the most radical proposals expected to be pioneered in the first 12 action zones, to be announced tomorrow.

Schools and local authorities which are bidding to form the first zones hope to introduce daily evening classes for pupils and their parents and Saturday schools.

Some bidders, such as the London Borough of Newham, want to replace the traditional three-term year with five terms and cut the six-week summer holiday enjoyed by generations of children and their teachers. Others propose a four-term year.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, has made it clear the zones will be a test bed for future reforms, and has urged them to develop "innovative" proposals. A further 13 zones will open in January and more are planned in the future.

But Mr de Gruchy, who represents 172,000 serving teachers, said changes to working practices would provoke immediate demands for industrial action. "They will be

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

outraged and there will be demands for action," he said.

"The situation is tinder dry and it just needs a spark to set the whole thing off. The Government has no idea how cheesed off teachers are."

Each zone will consist of about 20 schools under a special board of governors charged with thinking the unthinkable to raise standards. Each five-a-year project will be able to tear up the national curriculum and teachers' pay and conditions agreements to raise standards and test radical reforms.

Plans for the zones were greeted with scorn by delegates at all three teacher union conferences this Easter, although the NASUWT leadership has been by far the most vociferous in its condemnation.

Graham Lane, education chairman of the Local Government Association, said teachers had nothing to fear from change, arguing reform could improve the lot of staff. He said: "If you are going to ask people to come in on Saturday mornings you have to ask for volunteers. We have had no problem recruiting Saturday teachers."

But Mr de Gruchy, who led this year's successful industrial action to force a reduction in teachers' workloads, said teachers could not be bought off with promises of extra pay.

He said: "It would require billions and billions of pounds to get them remotely interested and I don't think the country can afford it. The Government is playing with fire."

Broody men get job bias warning

AS FAMILIES celebrated Father's day yesterday, prospective fathers were warned they could face the same prejudice as female job applicants suspected of feeling "broody".

New laws to protect the rights of fathers in the workplace could mean that employers will be deterred from taking on a man who they believe is contemplating the joys of fatherhood, say lawyers.

Anne-Marie Thompson, an employment legislation specialist at law firm Everheds, is warning employers they could face litigation for discriminating against fathers-to-be when the European Union's parental leave directive is translated into British law.

"We applaud the fact that parents' rights are being

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

brought into line with those existing in Europe, but employers should be careful not to fall foul of [the law]," she said.

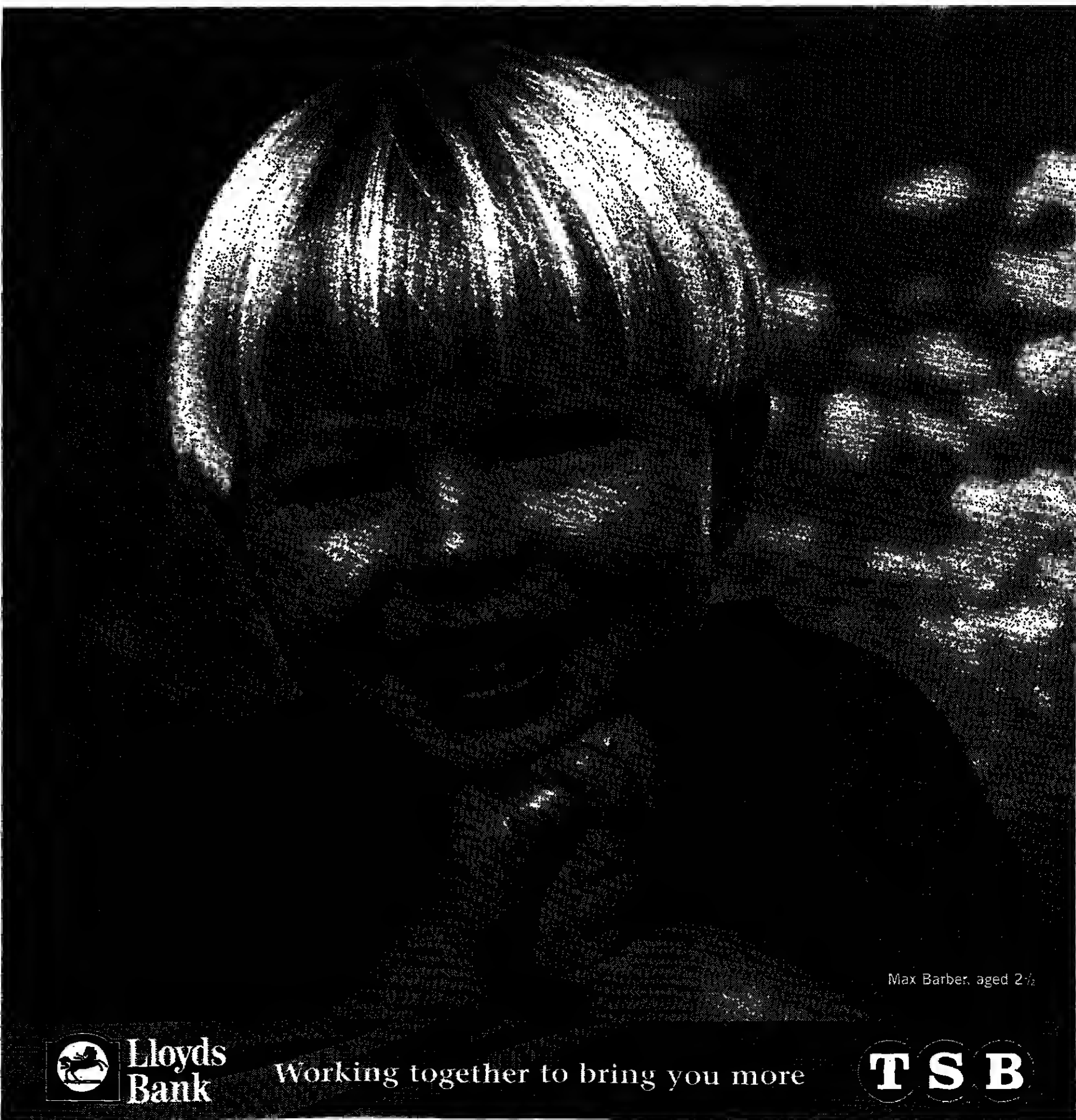
The directive will give men and women the same rights to three months' leave following the birth or adoption of a child.

Both genders will also be protected against dismissal for applying for their rights and should be able to return to the same or an equivalent position when they go back to work.

"If the legislation is felt to be too flexible... employers may well decide that child-free workers are a more reliable alternative, which could lead to 'parent discrimination,'" Ms Thompson said.

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Doctors hit out over heart scandal

THE DEPARTMENT of Health and the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) must take a share of the blame for the Bristol children's heart operations scandal, angry consultants said yesterday.

Six senior consultants at the Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI) signed a statement hitting back at the "indiscriminate blame" levelled at the hospital's doctors over their alleged failure to act.

They were backed by the Bristol Heart Children Action Group, which said there had been a "complete and corporate failure for some considerable length of time".

In yesterday's statement, the consultants said that while the RCS, the Department of Health and senior NHS local managers blamed "doctors in Bristol" for failing to halt the sequence of events, these agencies had failed just as miserably.

"It is not just a failure in regulation at Bristol," said Alan Bryan, cardiac surgeon and one of the six consultants to speak out. "It is a failure of all these people and they need to take responsibility."

The General Medical Council (GMC) inquiry, considered the most important medical disciplinary inquiry of the decade, investigated 53 switch or hole-in-the-heart operations at the BRI between 1988 and 1995. Twenty-nine children died and four were left brain-injured.

Last week, the GMC found surgeons James Wisheart and Janardan Dhasmana, and former chief executive John Roylance, guilty of serious professional misconduct. Mr Wisheart and Mr Roylance were ordered to be struck off. Dr Dhasmana was banned from operating on children for three years.

The six BRI doctors who signed the statement said they were taken aback by the willingness of central agencies to heap "indiscriminate blame" on "doctors in Bristol".

They pointed out that consultant anaesthetist Steve Bolsin - and other doctors - expressed concerns in the early 1990s. Those approached included the Royal College of Surgeons, the Department of Health, senior surgeons in

BY GLENDA COOPER

other cardiac surgical centres and senior NHS management at local level.

"We didn't do enough but neither did these others," Mr Bryan argued. "A number of doctors went through the official channels but nothing was done until Dr Steve Bolsin put his neck on the line."

Mr Bryan pointed out that doctors risked further retribution by giving evidence for the prosecution at the London disciplinary inquiry.

The doctors who signed the statement are Professor Gianni Angelini, the British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiac Surgery; Andy Black, senior lecturer in anaesthesia; Alan Bryan, cardiac surgeon; Ian Davies, anaesthetist; Peter Wilde, radiologist; and Sheila Willatts, anaesthetist in intensive care.

They added that they supported the public inquiry and hoped that thought would be given to how doctors could raise fears through official channels in future.

"The consultants' statement seems to explicitly state the various points we have raised with [Health Secretary] Mr Dobson in our detailed discussions," added Malcolm Curnow, spokesman for the Bristol Heart Children Action Group.

"There are a large number of people within and outside the medical profession who feel that the Royal College of Surgeons, the management and the Department of Health have all been instrumental in this corporate failure," he added.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said yesterday: "They are allegations that will be investigated. The Secretary of State has made it clear there is going to be a public inquiry. He has said we need to learn lessons and we must listen to the concerns of parents."

Avon and Somerset Police has said it is closely studying the findings of the GMC inquiry with the Crown Prosecution Service.

It said it had not received a complaint from a member of the public - a move which routinely could spark off a criminal investigation.



Gill Bennett, the Foreign Office's chief historian, is travelling to Moscow to discover who was behind a letter mentioning Soviet 'sympathisers' within the Labour Party in 1924. Nicola Kurtz

Russia allows access to files on letter that helped bring down Government

BY LOUISE JURY

RUSSIA IS to open its archives to the British government historian charged with investigating the Zinoviev letter, one of the murkiest episodes in British political history.

Gill Bennett, the Foreign Office's chief historian, is to spend a week in Moscow next month delving into files which could shed significant light on the 74-year-old document, which linked the Soviet leadership with the Labour party.

The row which ensued when the letter became public was partly blamed for causing the landslide election defeat of Labour's first prime minister, Ramsay MacDonald, in 1924.

KGB documents declassified in Russia in January reportedly proved the letter was a forgery commissioned by British intelligence.

A month later, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, authorised Ms Bennett to trawl through British secret service files to try to solve the mystery. But she realised that without access to the Russian files, the inquiry would be incomplete.

Yuri Fokine, the Russian ambassador in London and a former aide to the Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko, has been instrumental in persuading Russian officials to grant access.

Ms Bennett said yesterday: "My researches are primarily based on the records of the intelligence agencies. But in order to get as full a picture as possible and produce as authoritative a picture as possible, I'm going to see what the Russians have got in their archives."

Yuri Fokine had been "very helpful" in suggesting places



Grigori Zinoviev, left, and Ramsay MacDonald

which might provide useful leads, she said. "These days the Russians are much more open



with their archives, so I am hoping to see a range of different ones including those of the

former Russian intelligence services."

She will be assisted by Tony Bishop, the Foreign Office's principal Russian interpreter for 30 years until his retirement earlier this year.

The letter, purportedly by Grigori Zinoviev, a leading Bolshevik, was leaked to the *Daily Mail* in 1924 under the headline "Civil War Plot By Socialists' Masters. Moscow Orders To Our Reds."

It asked the British Communist Party to "mobilise" what it called "sympathetic" contacts inside the Labour party.

The newly-opened KGB files reportedly show that MI6 commissioned the letter from an agent in Riga, Latvia, to prevent MacDonald winning a second term in office.

Experts differ in whether they believe the letter was a

forgery or not. Ms Bennett, who was made an OBE in the recent honours for her work as official historian, said she personally believed the truth may never be known for certain.

But she said: "Who wrote it is much less interesting than the point about what use was made of it when it got here."

"How was it released to the press here and why did it cause such an uproar?"

She hopes to deliver her final memorandum on the letter by the end of the summer.

"What I can say with absolute confidence is the memorandum will include a lot of new material never before seen."

The surviving British files on the matter had been closed to all but members of the intelligence services until Robin Cook ordered the new inquiry by Ms Bennett earlier this year.

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Anger at 'treatment by postcode' for infertility

NINE OUT of 10 infertility specialists believe couples are unfairly being turned away for National Health Service treatment on social rather than clinical grounds.

Age limits and a bar on anyone with a child from a current or pre-existing relationship are discriminatory and run counter to the principle of providing care according to clinical need, they say.

A survey of almost 1,300 men and women who had undergone treatment found three-quarters had been forced to pay for some or all of it, spending on average £3,240, excluding the cost of drugs. One in four were successful in having a child.

A separate survey of 157 specialists, of whom 90 per cent were consultants, found half expected to spend less on fertility drugs this year than last. The maximum age for NHS treatment was set, on average, at 39. Both surveys were commissioned by the National Infertility Awareness Campaign.

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

William Ledger, clinical director of the *in-vitro* fertilisation (IVF) unit at the Oxford Radcliffe Hospital, said: "One in six couples will experience difficulty in their attempts to conceive. Sadly, there are few signs that NHS provision to help them with their problems is improving."

"Thousands of people continue to be denied a chance to have a family which is clearly a cause of psychological distress."

The survey of specialists, the first of its kind, found that one in three admitted to becoming emotionally involved in the outcome for a couple having treatment and two out of three said they felt frustrated when they were prevented from helping couples because of the lack of funding. One in five said they felt a sense of failure when parents were unsuccessful in having a baby.

Mr Ledger said: "When you

are faced with a couple and you know you have something up your sleeve that could help them and then you have to deliver this whammy that it is going to cost them £1,500, it is very distressing. Many couples do not realise that treatment is not available on the NHS."

NHS treatment is more widely available in the north with little provided south of a line from Birmingham to the Wash.

Mr Ledger said: "The NHS has traditionally put more money into the NHS in the north because levels of deprivation are higher. But the burden of infertility is pretty equal north and south. The problem for patients is that there are 125 health authorities and each has drawn up its own criteria for treatment."

More than half the patients surveyed said they had become depressed and one in 20 felt suicidal as a result of the financial and emotional pressures they were under. On average couples spent over five

years trying for a child and many felt their relationship with their partner had suffered as a result. Some had separated or divorced.

The findings also showed that "rationing by postcode" remains the norm for infertility treatment. One couple said: "Doctors in Bath have gone as far as they can to help us. If we lived next door in Avon we could have IVF but as it is we can't. How can this be called a national health service?"

One in 14 couples in the survey had been trying to conceive for more than 10 years. More than 70 per cent were in their 30s.

Investigation and treatment had led to 27 per cent being successful, with 26 per cent taking between three and five years to conceive, and 29 per cent between six and 10 years.

One in three surveyed said that infertility had strained their relationship with their partner. Only 28 per cent found that the shared experience had improved their relationship.

Watchdog calls last orders on alcopop game

AN ALCOPOP maker has been ordered to drop instructions for a pub drinking game from bottle labels, under the code which regulates the marketing of alcohol.

Three other alcopop makers have also been ordered to change their bottle labels because the independent panel which investigates complaints felt they did not make it clear exactly how much alcohol was in the drinks.

The Portman Group, which monitors the marketing of the controversial fizzy alcoholic drinks, backed complaints that promoting the game Spoof could encourage binge drinking. Instructions on the back of bottles of the alcoholic grapefruit drink - also called Spoof - encouraged groups of drinkers to pick an "odd person out" by trying to guess how many coins people were holding in their hands.

Although in this instance the loser only had to buy the next round of drinks, adjudicators said other versions of the

same game were linked to excessive drinking. They said this made the link irresponsible, encouraging "immoderate consumption and binge drinking".

The maker, Cott Europe, agreed to scrap the packaging. "There's quite a lot of evidence linking drinking games with immoderate consumption and the panel felt using a game on an alcoholic drink label was making an unfortunate link between the product and drinking games generally," said a spokeswoman for the Portman Group.

In the cases of Dr Thirsty's Orange Punch, Fruit Concorde Banana Split and Sorba, the Portman Group said that the nature of the drinks was unclear because the use of the word "alcohol" or "alcoholic" was not sufficiently prominent. All three companies who make the drinks, Wychwood Brewery, Matthew Clark and Scottish Courage, agreed to take action.

ANNE MCELVOY

'Good government demands sound opposition in order to scrutinize its behaviour and prevent it succumbing to the slab of arrogance'

— THE MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3

ON SATURDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 20/6/98. The winning numbers: 1, 14, 27, 31, 38, 47. Bonus number: 32. Total Sales: £55,580,237. Prize Fund: £25,011,116 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	7	£1,182,337	£8,276,359
Match 5 plus bonus ball	14	£181,898	£2,546,572
Match 5	1,103	£1,442	£1,590,326
Match 4	49,962	£70	£3,498,340
Match 3	909,504	£10	£9,095,040
TOTALS	900,990		£25,011,116

Total Sales including Incentives and Wagering Draw: £57,805,761. Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £25,400,000. Break after rollover rounded down to nearest £1: £5,275. © Camelot Group plc. Players must be 16 or over.

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer system shall prevail.

Frogmen join hunt for missing girl, 13

FROGMEN, AIRCRAFT and mountain rescue teams yesterday joined the desperate search for a 13-year-old girl missing three days after she set out on a short walk to school. The huge police operation, including 100 specialist officers, was combing difficult terrain for any sign of her. Claire Hart left home at 8.25am on Thursday for the two-mile walk to Dane Valley School along part of the A536

BY CHRIS HAMILTON

main road into Congleton, Cheshire, taking a short cut. The teenager was last seen in a field at 8.40am, chatting to a youth in combat gear with a shotgun slung over his shoulder. Yesterday Claire's black Marks & Spencer coat with a fur collar was found near to where she was last seen. Police said her chances were now "not looking good", al-

though her parents were still hoping she would be found safe and well. Superintendent Derek Barnett said both parents were "distraught" and her mother had visited the officers co-ordinating the search from the school. He said his concerns were growing: "But, nevertheless, our officers are fully committed and are doing everything they can to find Claire."

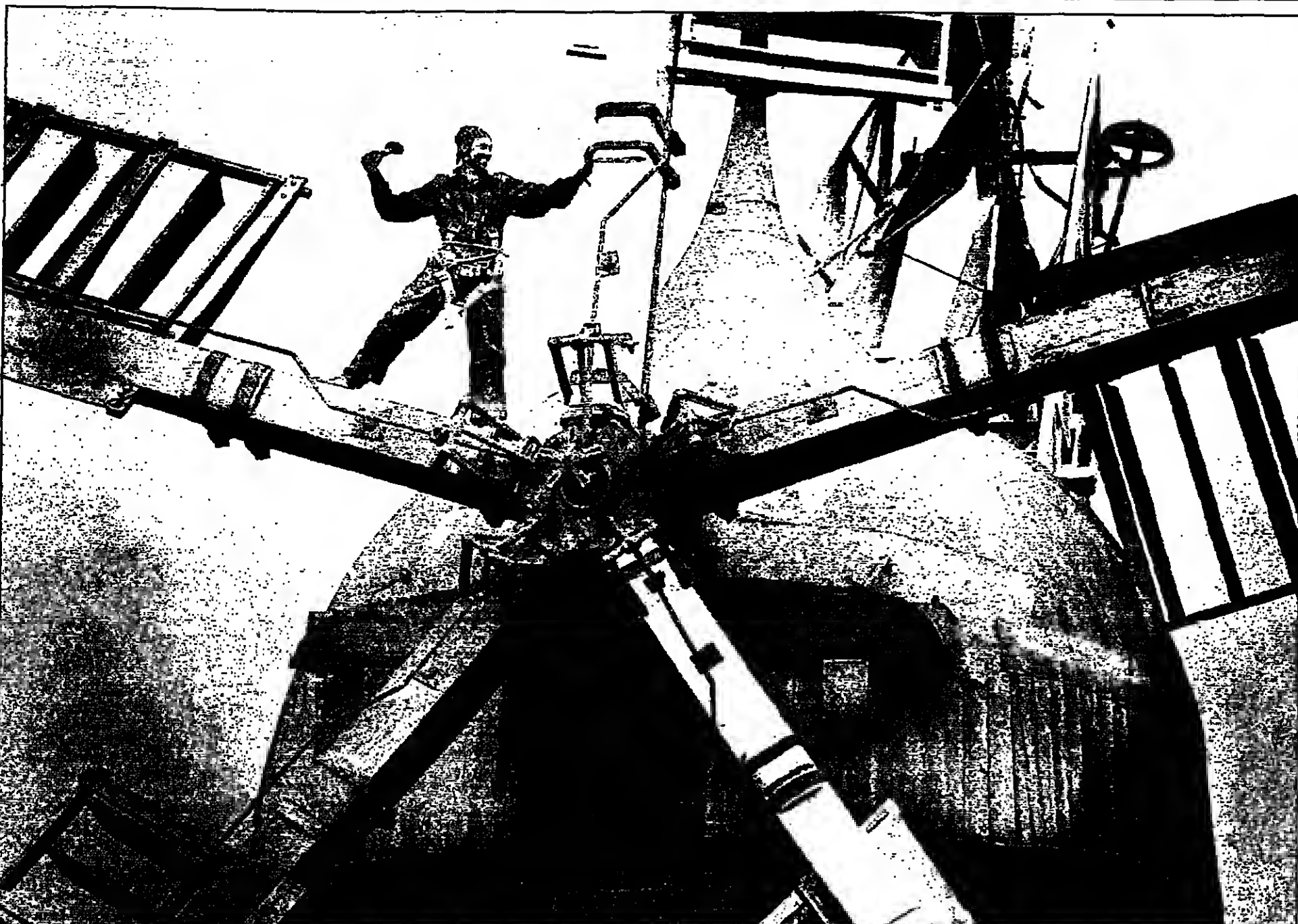
A youth is being questioned by police in Congleton after magistrates granted a 36-hour extension to his custody from 9pm yesterday. Sgt Chris Jones, of the Cheshire Police operational support unit, is leading the search from a base set up in the grounds of Claire's school. The river Dane has been a focus of the search, but with its steep banks 50 local mountain rescue volunteers have been

drafted in because of their expertise with ropes. Another 50 specially trained police officers have been involved, including aircrew, frogmen and canoeists who are extending the search up to six miles downstream for more clues. Residents in Eaton, Cheshire, described Claire Hart as a happy, lively girl who could be a little naive and trusting but took a full part in village life.

Near neighbour and Eaton parish councillor Roy Walther said Claire was "a lovely, cheerful" girl. "She and her sister were adopted and arrived around four years ago. She has a good home there. We used to see her going to school, she always gave a shout and a wave and always made a fuss of our dog. She shows no fear and accepts people for what they are, she's not afraid of speak-

ing to anybody. She's a rather naive, trusting girl." He said the village was "in shock". "Another neighbour said she had only moved in recently, but Claire and her sister Michelle, 10, had made an effort to come over and introduce themselves. "They were the sort of children it was a delight to have around."

The village of Eaton has about 275 inhabitants, mainly commuters, who have known little crime aside from an horrific incident that made headlines three years ago. On the day before Christmas Eve 1994, former school dinner lady Tracey Merten, 31, from Birmingham, was found dumped on the village's church steps suffering from severe burns. She died in hospital soon afterwards. No one has been tried for her death.



Millwright Neil Medcalf securing a new sail at the weekend to the 179-year-old Maud Foster Mill in Boston, Lincolnshire, to replace one lost in storms last March. At 80ft tall, the Maud Foster is Britain's tallest working mill

MoD agency admits Net porn scandal

MINISTERS WILL come under fire in the House of Commons today following disclosures that tens of thousands of pornographic images were downloaded from the Internet at a Ministry of Defence research laboratory.

The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (Dera) at Malvern, Worcestershire, confirmed yesterday that two employees are being investigated following the discovery of large quantities of explicit material by MoD Police last year.

The MoD said that the downloaded material contained images involving children and animals.

More than 170,000 explicit images are reported to have been found by investigators following an initial discovery by a security guard.

A Dera staff member was found not guilty on eight counts of possessing indecent material at Droitwich Magistrates' Court earlier this month. Two Dera employees are subject to an internal investigation.

A spokesman for the MoD Police said yesterday: "We presented files on five people to the Criminal Prosecution Service, two of whom were Dera employees and three of whom were contract workers. The CPS decided to go ahead only with one who was a Dera employee."

Investigators are reported to have found that a key computer had spent more than 70 per cent of its on-line time downloading and distributing pornographic images.

Menzies Campbell, foreign affairs and defence spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, said yesterday: "The real issue here is not the fact that it was porn that was downloaded but the fact that the MoD computer system could be manipulated so easily."

"So far as we know, security was not compromised on this occasion but it is absolutely essential that suitable procedures be put in place to prevent abuse of this kind in the future. Defence ministers face the House of Commons [today] at Question-Time. They had better have some answers ready."

Workers are believed to have used a special program called "Sucker" which downloaded thousands of explicit images. More than 3,500 Dera employees across Britain are said to have had access to the material.

Rupert Cazalet, a spokesman for Dera, said yesterday that accessing or downloading material which is not work-related is a disciplinary offence.

'£387,000 works on air chief's home that was up for sale

REFURBISHMENT WORK on a former air chief marshal's home which cost £387,000 should never even have been started, according to an inquiry report into the debacle which cost Sir Sandy Wilson his job. The report, which was re-

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

pressed by the Ministry of Defence but published this weekend on the orders of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, spells out a catalogue of irregularities over the Haynes Garth residence near Cheltenham.

The renovation made headlines after it was revealed that £33,000 had been spent on curtains and on overhauling the windows at the property. Now it has emerged that the air force had been recommended

to sell the house before the work even began. It was finally sold last year for around £450,000, only £50,000 more than the cost of the improvements. A study on the house had found that it would be more cost effective to sell it and lease a nearby property for Sir Sandy, then commander of Personnel and Training Command at RAF Innesworth. It found it would cost £182,000 to do up the property - less than half the final cost - and that was too much, it said. Sir Sandy took early retirement in the wake of the scandal.

The inquiry report, by the accountants KPMG Peat Marwick, has only now been published after a complaint on freedom of information grounds by a member of the public was upheld.

It said there was a limit of £31,000 for new work on service residences, and the Treasury should have been consulted before the alterations went ahead. It also added that Parliament had been misled twice about the cost of the work.

No record was kept of when the decision to refurbish the house was taken or by whom, nor of who authorised the decision to upgrade it. Originally, the improvements were to have cost £230,000, though one minute recorded the estimated cost as £164,000. Once work was under way, according to KPMG, "questions about total costs

appear not to have been asked". In February and March 1994 parliamentary questions answered by Jeremy Hanley, the then defence minister, put the cost of the work at £250,000 and then £260,000. In fact by then it had risen to £347,000.

Nigel Jones, Liberal Democrat MP for Cheltenham, was one of those who questioned ministers about the affair.

"Effectively these residences are for visiting dignitaries, perhaps from other military organisations elsewhere in the world. We should concentrate on making sure our armed forces are properly equipped and trained, and should do away with some of the entertainment," he said.

Course to offer Diana 'therapy'

A WEEKEND conference is being held next month in the heart of rural Wales to try to help people to come to terms with the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Social workers, teachers and community leaders will gather in the hamlet of Bledfa near the spa town of Llandrindod Wells, to probe the Diana enigma. James Roose-Evans, a non-stipendiary priest of the Church in Wales, who is holding the course explained that the "Diana Weekend" would explore the differences between the woman and the myth that has grown up since her death.

It would, he said, help to settle arguments about the princess's death and more importantly he claims, assist those who continue to grieve to come to terms with the tragedy. "Potentially it will be a very rich, rewarding and useful weekend. Diana has become a phenomenon and it

BY TONY HEATH

is an appropriate time to ask why this is so," Mr Roose-Evans said. One of the activities planned for the weekend is the construction of montages of newspaper and magazine photographs of Diana. The event, to be held at the Barn Centre, is limited to 50 places, and the fee is £60. The organisers claim that a queue is already building up, thanks in part to an advertisement on the Internet.

"The people coming are in professions that still have to deal with those who continue to grieve for the princess," Mr Roose-Evans said last week. Bledfa is a long way from the urban glamour that typified Diana's existence. It boasts an ancient church, a sub post office and a pub, The Hundred House Inn, which has two letting rooms. One has already been booked by a nun travelling from England to attend the conference.

Green attack for quarry support

THE GOVERNMENT is backing a campaign to promote the minerals extraction industry, despite serious damage to the countryside from quarrying, green lobby groups have claimed.

Environmentalists say the Government has spent £72,000 on promoting the industry at the expense of the landscape. They claim that the cash should be spent on research into ways to avoid digging up the countryside instead.

Organisations backing the protest include Friends of the Earth, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Marine Conservation Society.

At the beginning of Minerals '98 Week, the environmental groups claimed the demand for low-grade building material had increased over the last 40 years and that quarrying had meant countryside and coastal areas had been squandered. A Government spokesman defended the cash payments. He said: "The Department of

BY DIANA BLAMIRE

Trade contributed £84,000 and the Department of the Environment put in £8,000 to demonstrate the importance to the economy of local communities and the need for a sustainable industry. The Government has already said it is looking at a quarrying tax."

Elaime Gilligan, Quarrying Campaigner at FoE, said: "The minerals industry must not be allowed to obscure its environmentally-destructive practices behind the PR gloss of Minerals '98."

"The Government must recognise the impact that this outdated dinosaur industry has on communities around the country and take firm action to tame it. This should include a tax on primary aggregates in the next Budget, as promised by Chancellor Gordon Brown; better protection for environmentally-sensitive areas and other policies to encourage greener practices."



A Save the Children plane delivering supplies in southern Sudan. Photo: Neil Cooper

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8/PARLIAMENT & POLITICS

Religious peers mobilise against lowering age of consent

THE GOVERNMENT was facing a possible battle with the House of Lords last night over plans to lower the homosexual age of consent to 16.

A massive majority in favour of equal rights for gays aged 16 and 17 was expected tonight as the Crime and Disorder Bill reaches its final stages in the House of Commons.

But with Bishops and other Christian peers planning to try to overturn the move in the upper house, a protracted fight over the measure

HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

seemed possible. While supporters of the measure argued that peers would be forced into line by a majority of two thirds or more in the House of Commons on the measure, the religious lobby was mobilising support for its case against.

Because the Bill started its life in

the House of Lords, it must return there before it becomes law.

Baroness Young, a former Conservative Leader of the House of Lords and leader of a recent revolt on the Human Rights Bill, said she would oppose the measure.

"There are a great many people from all parts of the House who would be very unhappy about lowering the age. I personally think it is a paedophiles' charter," she said. It emerged yesterday that the

Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, had lobbied the Prime Minister against the reform. Mr Blair supports an equal age of consent at 16 for both gays and heterosexuals and has promised to vote in favour.

Dr Carey backed a statement from Anglican bishops which warned that changing the law would send "wrong messages" about the way young people should behave.

Leaders of both Church and State

should protect the young from both harm and exploitation and "offer them a vision of what is good," the statement said.

"Pressures are at work to legitimise any and every lifestyle irrespective of any difference of value and quality between them. These pressures should be resisted."

A spokesman for the Archbishop of Canterbury said he might speak on the subject in the House of Lords.

Although gay rights campaigners

were delighted by the level of support they had received for an age of consent at 16, further measures to be proposed by a Liberal Democrat MP looked less likely to succeed.

Amendments to be put tomorrow by Dr Evan Harris, the member for Oxford West and Abingdon, would amend the law which prevents gay sex taking place where more than two people are present. They would also ensure that the sex offenders' register was amended so that

teenagers convicted in the past of having sex between 16 and 18 were not prevented from working with children.

A further move by the Labour MP for Bassetlaw, Joe Ashton, may also be opposed by the Government. Mr Ashton wants the age of consent to be 18 for both gays and heterosexuals where one party is in a position of trust.

But ministers want to wait for the results of an ongoing review.

Trimble looks to Paisley defeat

POLITICIANS today enter their final week of campaigning for Thursday's vital elections to the new Belfast assembly - the centrepiece of Northern Ireland's new constitutional arrangements.

The assembly will need a strong majority in favour of the Good Friday agreement to fend off challenges from the strong section of Unionism opposed to accord.

The British and Irish governments, nationalists and republicans are all hoping David Trimble's Ulster Unionist party scores a decisive victory over the Rev Ian Paisley and other Protestant dissenters.

The issue most debated within Unionism during a low-key campaign is whether Mr Trimble and Tony Blair can be trusted to deliver a new deal with real prospects for peace without endangering the union with Britain. Mr Paisley has been arguing trenchantly that neither the Ulster Unionist leader nor the prime minister can be trusted to deliver peace or to safeguard Unionism.

The 106 members of the new assembly will be elected by proportional representation, with six coming from each of Northern Ireland's 18 Westminster constituencies. Each will initially be paid £29,000, and office costs of £15,000, but this will quickly rise as powers are devolved to the assembly. Its first meeting is expected in the week beginning June 29.

Nationalist attention will focus on the performances of Sinn Féin and the SDLP. Sinn Féin's vote has risen from an

ULSTER ASSEMBLY

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland correspondent

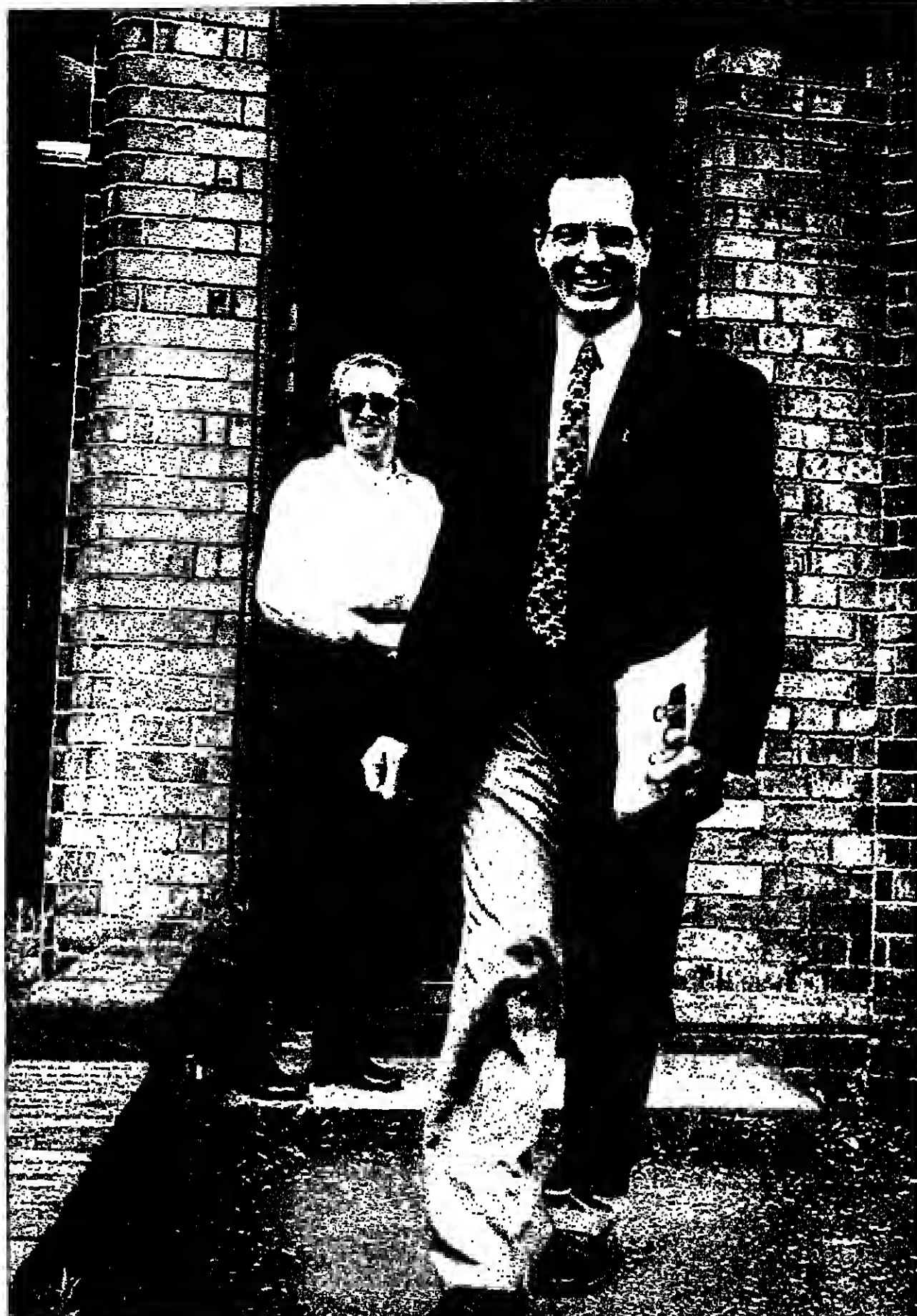
average of 11 per cent in the late 1980s to last year's Westminster total of 16.9 per cent, its best ever result. The rise has primarily been due to the party's success in wooing new voters and former non-voters. But it has also been due partly to a switch of some voters to Sinn Féin from the SDLP.

One theory is that the switch was partly due to SDLP supporters voting tactically to encourage the peace process. This election will show whether or not they will now revert to the SDLP.

Early assembly meetings may produce some political fireworks - they will bring Mr Paisley and Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams into prolonged contact for the first time. Members will elect a first minister and deputy first minister. These are thought most likely to be Mr Trimble and either SDLP leader John Hume or his deputy, Seamus Mallon.

At a later stage, the assembly will select a shadow executive committee. Attention will centre on the question of Sinn Féin, which claims guaranteed inclusion under the terms of the Good Friday agreement - the party's leaders have taken to saying they are "ready for government".

But Mr Trimble will press hard for IRA arms decommissioning or other moves from republicans before allowing Sinn Féin on to the executive.



Gerry Kelly, the former IRA prisoner who is now a Sinn Féin candidate, canvassing for an Assembly place

Hague weak says Blair's new recruit

CHANGING ALLEGIANCE

THE MP Peter Temple-Morris yesterday spoke of his feeling of relief at having taken the final step in a move from the Tory benches to the Labour camp.

The Leominster MP confirmed yesterday that, after seven months as an exile from the Tory party, he was severing all links and joining Labour.

He said: "I believe the future of the country is with New Labour and with Tony Blair... I must say I feel very relieved this morning."

Speaking on BBC TV's *Breakfast with Frost* programme, Mr Temple-Morris also rounded on what he claimed was weak leadership of the Tory party from William Hague. He said Mr Hague was a nice and intelligent man, and he had nothing against him personally. "But I think his style of leadership is proving to be weak. He is not shaping up to those very elements which have brought John Major down and indeed Thatcher before - elements which take the Conservative party away from the British people."

Mr Temple-Morris rejected suggestions that he should resign and force a by-election to test local voters' support for his move.

He stressed that he had written a personal manifesto for the last election, which included an open campaign in favour of the single currency, Europe and constitutional reform.

"Had the leadership election turned out differently, which is what I very much hoped, this might not have happened."

He conceded that had he switched parties 10 years ago, he would have gone almost automatically to the Liberal Democrats or the SDP.

"But the point is so much of what I want, and indeed so much of what the Liberal Democrats want, is now being done by Tony Blair," he said.



Peter Temple-Morris MP

Mr Temple-Morris stressed he had done no deals and would expect no frontbench job as a result of making the switch.

The Leominster MP said that Tory policies on Europe, and the single currency were the catalyst for his decision but the "last straw" was the Conservative attitude over the bi-partisan policy on Northern Ireland.

For the Conservatives, social security spokesman Iain Duncan Smith said he believed that Mr Temple-Morris had been "in the wrong party almost from the word go".

He told GMTV's *Sunday Programme*: "It's very difficult to find out how many times one man can leave a party. I thought Peter Temple-Morris had left the party months ago, some might say even years ago."

But there was support for the party switch MP from Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, Martin McGuinness.

Also speaking on GMTV, he described Mr Temple-Morris as "one of the most honourable British politicians I have ever met in my life".

Last night the Prime Minister welcomed Mr Temple-Morris's decision "to put his faith and future in the Labour Party".

"Mr Blair has a great deal of respect for Mr Temple-Morris and believes he will make an excellent Labour MP," a spokeswoman said.

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THIS WEEK IN THE COMMONS



TODAY

Defence Questions
President of the Council and Commons Commission Questions
Remaining stages of the Crime and Disorder Bill
Adjournment debate tabled by David Amess (Con, Southend West) on Essex fishing and the cockle industry

TOMORROW

Scottish Questions
Lord Chancellor's Department Questions
Remaining stages of the Crime and Disorder Bill
Adjournment debate tabled by Richard Burden (Lab, Birmingham Northfield) on operation of international law in Israeli-occupied territories

WEDNESDAY

Adjournment debates:
Crime in London (Keith Darvall, Lab, Upminster)
Vitamin B6 (Keith Simpson, Con, Mid Norfolk)
Rotherham and Mexborough travel-to-work area (John Hesley, Lab, Westworth)
Parachute Regiment (Gerald Howarth, Con, Aldershot)
Care and respite facilities for people with learning disabilities (Eric Illsley, Lab, Barnsley Central)
Welsh Questions
Ten Minute Rule Bill: Sale of Alcohol to Young Persons (Prohibition) Bill (Paul Truswell, Lab, Pudsey)
Questions to the Prime Minister
Committee Stage of the Human Rights Bill
Adjournment debate on coastal erosion tabled by Adrian Sanders (Lib Dem, Torbay)

THURSDAY

Treasury Questions
Liberal Democrat debate on motion seeking extra debating time for the backbench Energy Efficiency Bill and Private Hire Vehicles (London) Bill
SNP motion on government strategy on social welfare
Adjournment debate on environmental protection for the Forest of Dean tabled by Diana Organ (Lab, Forest of Dean)

FRIDAY

The House of Commons will not sit.
MPs have a constituency day.

Labour councils 'out of touch' with voters

LABOUR MUST take action to tackle waning support and local government scandals in its traditional heartlands, a Government minister warned yesterday.

Trade minister Ian McCartney, who piloted the minimum wage legislation through the Commons, said some Labour councils were "very badly run", and dominated by "cliques" with little engagement with the public.

Labour councillors and politicians have been engulfed in a string of financial scandals in northern England and Scotland.

Several "Old Labour" councils in the north of England lost ground in the local government elections in May. Labour stronghold Liverpool fell to the Liberal Democrats.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr McCartney - who has been given the job of revitalising the party's regional power-base - said the problem was so serious that Labour risked losing areas like Liverpool "for a generation".

The answer in the city lay in transforming the party membership and cultivating a more open regime, Mr McCartney suggested.

Warning that Labour risked a "bloody nose" in the European elections next year, he said: "Some of our councils, quite frankly, are very badly run."

"The consequence of that is that they [electors] will not vote Conservative - they're rock solid Labour people - and so they're abstaining and that's a message to us to do something

about it. I'm going to be responding to that."

Mr McCartney said: "There's something fundamentally wrong when you get turnouts of 10 per cent, 11 per cent, 12 per cent. And you have to do something about it, and one of the main reasons is that the party's disengaged on a regular basis with the community it's been elected to serve."

Several problems had been identified in the local party machines of traditionally loyal Labour areas, he told BBC's *On The Record*.

"These areas just don't seem to attract members or enough new members," he said.

"The party's usually controlled by a small clique, and in local authority terms they have very poor relationships with the community which they serve."

Skye Bridge deal attacked by MPs

TAXPAYERS and tollpayers using Skye Bridge may not be getting value for money because the Scottish Office failed to look at alternatives and the terms of construction were not determined competitively, a Commons committee says.

The £39m bridge was one of the first projects carried out under the Conservative government's private finance initiative, which brought private funds into public projects.

The cross-party Commons Public Accounts Committee says the bridge should be a lesson to government departments and agencies. A better

comparison of alternative options is needed, it says; tollpayers' interests were insufficiently protected; and the financial terms of the deal were not fully satisfactory.

Barred Labour radicals rebel

DISGRUNTLED members of the Scottish Labour Party are to appeal against "systematic discrimination" in selection procedures for Scottish parliamentary candidates. The group is also considering legal action.

Ian Davidson (Glasgow Pollok), one of those rejected, said attempts to pass over radical candidates would damage the party and the parliament.

Blair joins Dome celebrations

TONY BLAIR attends the topping-out ceremony for the Millennium Dome today.

He will join site workers to mark the completion of the structure within a year of the start of building work. The finishing touches will be made to the roof today.

The dome is claimed to be the largest covered structure in the world. It encompasses 20 acres and has a circumference of one kilometre.

Sponsorship deals for the Dome had now gone beyond £100m, a Millennium Central spokesman said. The target is £150m.



Pagans of all descriptions, from nature-loving druids to S&M devotees of Madonna, were allowed into Stonehenge for the first time in 10 years to witness the summer solstice

Andrew Buurman

Rollo, the stones and a new dawn for druids

AFTER A nine-year banishment, Britain's druid representatives gathered in Stonehenge at dawn yesterday to mark the summer solstice. It quickly became a case of four gorsebuds, a wedding and a funeral. Plus a pagan sect or two.

During a decade out in the cold, embittered factions have developed and some of these schisms were evident on Sunday morning. So, as light grew, the scene at Stonehenge was more about competing for attention than unity or healing.

While, for example, the Glastonbury order was happy to join hands in a circle to chant their way through the solstice ritual or gorsebud, a splinter group opted instead for the horseshoe formation, while others took up a horizontal "free-kick wall" stance and faced the rising sun.

As Sam approached, amid banging gongs and yelps of joy, the rival ceremonies drew to a climax and the worshippers watched a weak beam of morning light push its way through the clouds.

There were unexpected whoops of praise for English Heritage too, led by Rollo Maughlin, the Archdruid of the Glastonbury Order. He applauded their decision to allow a chosen few back into the ancient site. For a moment, at least, it seemed the violent disturbances of the mid-1980s and the contentious four-mile exclusion zone around Stonehenge were forgotten.

There was less charity, however, afforded to other druids. "I suppose you have all already heard of Rollo," complained one member of the horseshoe tendency. "He loves the sound

By VANESSA THORP

of his own voice and never lets anyone join in."

When loud entreaties to "feel the ecstasy of life" came from the horseshoe, Rollo soon upped the dramatic ante in his circle by supervising both the marriage of his followers Mick and Jane, and the scattering of the ashes of a former druid, John Pendragon.

"Shameless opportunism, I call it," said one druid, as the happy couple leapt arm in arm over a bucket of flowers. But the morning was not all about druids. White witches and sundry other pagan sects were also represented. Among the most striking were the members of the Temple of Lilith, who are dedicated, as they put it, to the "darker side".

"Winter is really more our thing," sneered John Ruce, who wore a sharp suit and a Mohican haircut. "But we thought we would come along." "Our faith is about actualising the feminine," he explained. "We are interested in sex mainly, sado-masochistic sex."

His co-worshipper, Rhannon Rozier, dressed in a plunging velvet tailsuit and nothing else could only agree. "It's the Madonna principle we believe in - that's the singer Madonna, I mean," she added.

Moments of compelling action were few and far between, but honourable mentions should include the woman who suddenly shrieked, "I have the chalice of Albion!" for no apparent reason and the druid who answered the cry "Let us have the courage to become ancestors ourselves!" with the observation that he had already had a vasectomy.

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— THE MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 →

Shia death blamed on Baghdad

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Ayatollah Murtadha Ali M
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shot dead in Najaf as he wa
home from praying at
shrine where Imam Ali,



Gharavi: Shot dead

The Iraqi government denial of any involvement in the murders were treated with disdain yesterday by other Shi'ite movements in the Islamic

world. Hizbollah in Lebanon accused the Iraqi government of "attacking the lives of the nation's scholars and leaders" and continuing the criminal course in which the Iraqi regime has a "remarkable record".

If the assassination of Ayatollah Gharavi was carried out by the Iraqi security services, it shows the government in Baghdad is confident that it can do what it wants to its opponents without provoking a

The killing of Gharavi is similar to the death of Mohammad Taqi al-Khoie, another leading cleric. He died on the road between Kerbala and Najaf in 1984 when his car struck

truck. Witnesses said the truck had been waiting for hours and then suddenly pulled out onto the road. The police department is taking the injured to hospital.

MICHAEL BROWN

'The sweetness of revenge – truly a dish best eaten when it's so cold it's almost frozen – is something I savour every second of the day'

— THE MONDAY REVIEW. PAGE 4

هكذا من الأصل

French defy EU over hunting season

By JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

FEATHERS ARE about to fly. A violent row is about to break out between Paris and the European Union, and within the pink-red-green French coalition government, over the hunting season for migratory waterbirds.

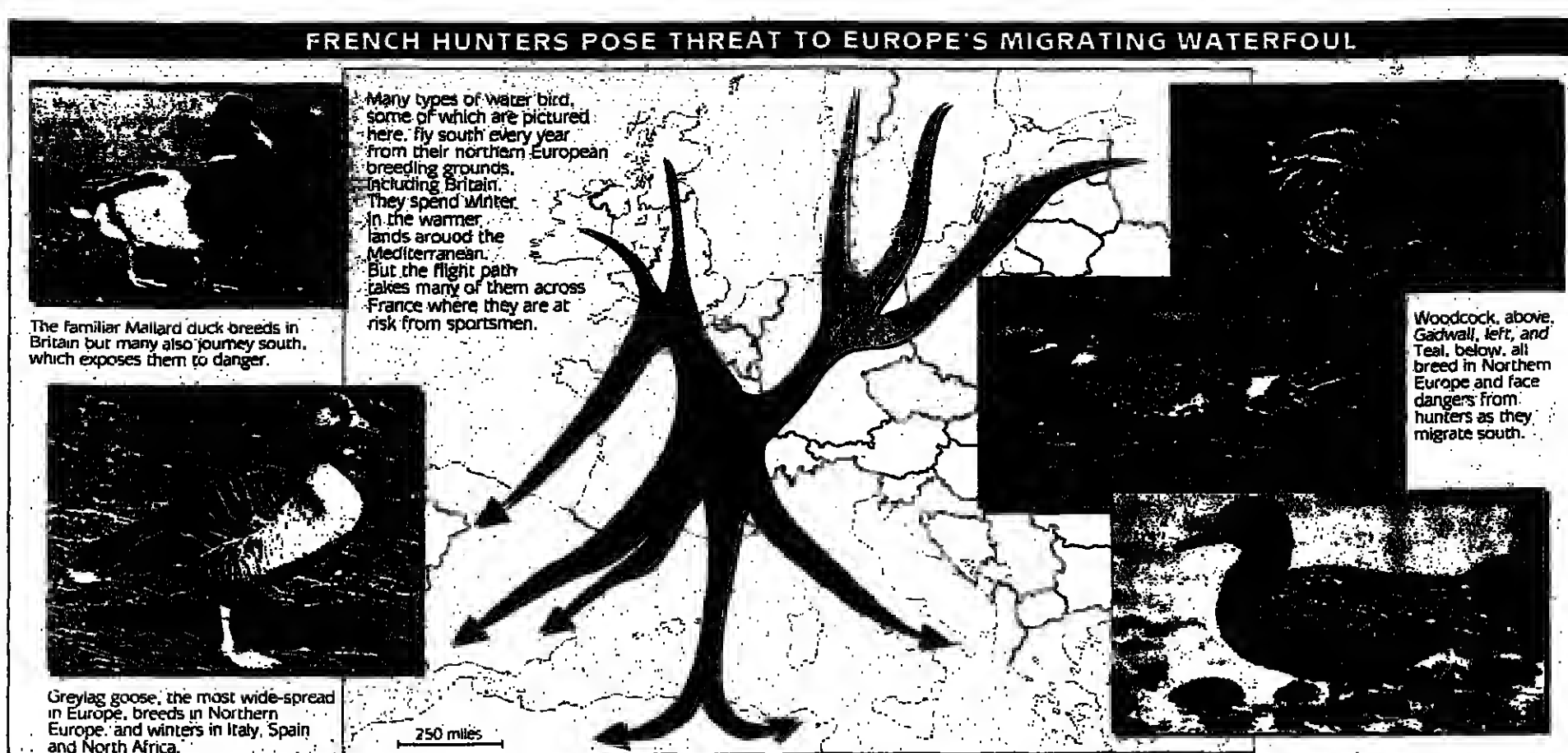
The French parliament voted last week to allow hunters in France to shoot certain birds - wild ducks and geese, but also woodcock and snipe - for an extra six weeks in the summer and for an extra month in the early part of spring.

The law, which was passed overwhelmingly by a three-quarters deserted National Assembly, deliberately contravenes a 19-year-old EU directive protecting birds which migrate between European countries.

It would allow French hunters, unlike their counterparts in other EU states, to continue to shoot the protected birds during their annual autumn and spring migrations. By nature, the birds are not purely French but spend parts of their lives in other countries, including Britain.

Apart from the conservation issues, the assembly's vote risks causing a destructive row within the French coalition - between Green members on the one hand and Socialists and Communists on the other. Hunting is largely a working man's sport in France.

The environment minister, Dominique Voynet, who is also



The familiar Mallard duck breeds in Britain but many also journey south, which exposes them to danger.



Greylag goose, the most wide-spread in Europe, breeds in Northern Europe, and winters in Italy, Spain and North Africa.

Many types of water bird, some of which are pictured here, fly south every year from their northern European breeding grounds, including Britain. They spend winter in the warmer lands around the Mediterranean. But the flight path takes many of them across France where they are at risk from sportsmen.

Woodcock, above, Gadwall, left, and Teal, below, all breed in Northern Europe and face dangers from hunters as they migrate south.

leader of the Green Party, said yesterday that she would refuse to sign the documents implementing the new law. This could cause a minor constitutional crisis and a serious political crisis within the government.

The bird-hunting dispute has become a rallying point for submerged anti-European feeling in France. Few people dare attack the broad sweep of French EU policy on subjects such as the single currency. Emotion tends to be transferred to other issues, such as hunting, instead.

The hunting lobby has accused bureaucrats in Brussels of attacking the "culture of the French countryside". In fact, the directive about the birds was agreed by all EU governments - under a French presidency - in 1979. It has never been properly

applied by successive French governments, leading to a European Court judgement in 1994 ordering Paris to obey the rules.

The issue has become deeply emotive - and hopelessly confused - in the past four years: muddled by propa-

ganda from hunters' groups loosely or directly associated with the far-right National Front. They accuse Brussels and Ms Voynet of having a secret agenda to abolish hunting altogether.

The run-up to Friday's vote was disfigured by outright in-

timidation of MPs. In the Somme, a young Socialist MP, Vincent Peillon, received threats against his family. His constituency headquarters was vandalised and daubed with hunters' slogans. He voted "Yes" to the new law.

Ms Voynet and the other

Greens have been distressed by what they see as the lack of backbone displayed by the Socialist Party and the Jospin government in dealing with the hunters' groups.

They point out that active hunters account for only 3 per cent of the French population, and that 60 per cent of French people would like to see all blood sports banned.

In the event, more than three-quarters of members of the National Assembly found that they had a more pressing engagement when the issue came to a vote on Friday morning. Out of 577 members, there were 92 votes in favour and 20 against.

Under the EU directive, the shooting of migratory waterfowl should not start before September and should end on 31 January. These rules have never been applied in France. Under the law voted on Friday, shooting can start on 14 July and end on 28 February.

The later closing date is regarded as especially destructive by conservation groups. They say the birds are particularly vulnerable while migrating to their nesting grounds.

The question is: What will the EU do? The protection of birds which criss-cross EU national boundaries is a classical European environmental issue. However, without public support from other governments, the European Commission may be reluctant to take on a democratically elected body like the French parliament.

West orders Serbia to pull out Kosovo troops

ISMET HAJDARI
in Pristina

FIGHTING FLARED up again yesterday in Serbia's restive Kosovo province, with Albanian militants apparently trying to expand the territory under their control.

Albanian forces opened fire on a Serb village along Kosovo's main east-west road connecting the capital, Pristina, with the western town of Pec, the home of the pro-Serbian Media Centre.

Meanwhile, an American diplomatic mission will tell Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic this week that he must meet all the demands of the Contact Group on Kosovo, the United States Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, said yesterday.

Ms Albright said the American ambassador to Macedonia, Christopher Hill, and the newly-



Milosevic: told to withdraw

nominated ambassador to the United Nations, Richard Holbrook, would tell Mr Milosevic specifically that he must withdraw his forces from Kosovo, where Albanians opposed to Serbian rule form 90 per cent of the 2 million population.

"We will deliver a strong

message that violence is not acceptable, that the package that the Contact Group put out is a package and not a menu. He [Milosevic] has to pull back his forces," she said in a television interview.

The Contact Group - Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States - earlier this month in London called for the Yugoslav President to withdraw "security units used for civilian repression" from Kosovo.

Ms Albright said all options remained open, including military action, but for the moment the emphasis was on diplomacy. "We want to solve this issue diplomatically... The Nato planning is in support of a strong diplomatic approach... the issue here is that we want a diplomatic solution and I don't want to threaten strikes when what I'm trying to do is get a diplomatic solution," she added.

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12/FOREIGN NEWS

China's dissidents appeal to Clinton

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

SEVENTY-ONE dissidents in China have signed an open letter urging President Bill Clinton to meet the parents of one of the students killed in the June 1989 Tiananmen Square shootings during his state visit to China.

The petition followed a similar letter signed by 57 dissidents on Friday and also sent to foreign news agencies. This called on Mr Clinton to "state clearly his concern" for human rights in China by meeting Xu Wenli, who was released in 1993 after 12 years in prison. A third petition, signed by 15 dissidents in Zhejiang province, appealed to the United States President to offer wreaths for the victims of June 1989.

But in Washington, state department officials at the weekend made it plain that they did not expect Mr Clinton to meet pro-democracy activists. Stanley Roth, assistant secretary of state, said: "At this point, I don't believe we're going to have dissidents on the schedule." He said that the main concern was "what would happen to (dissident) people if you met with them".

Mr Xu, a veteran activist, dismissed Washington's excuse for not meeting activists. "Whether dissidents receive any sort of punishment for meeting Clinton is not the slightest consideration for us," he said.

Mr Clinton's handling of human rights issues is set to be the most controversial aspect of the nine-day state visit, the first by a US president since the June 1989 killing of hundreds of unarmed demonstrators.



A cyclist in Peking passes a stand selling a magazine featuring Bill Clinton's visit. It is the first by a US president since the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The President's imminent arrival on Thursday has demonstrated that the remnant of China's dissident community can still organise a co-ordinated response.

The letter from 71 signatories, told Mr Clinton: "After socialising with VIPs, we hope and request you openly visit Ding

Zilin and her husband, whose son died on 4 June (1989)."

Ms Ding's son was 17 years old when he was killed as Chinese soldiers broke up the pro-democracy demonstration, and since then she has been the most outspoken campaigner on behalf of the families whose relatives died in the crack-

down, compiling a list of some of the victims.

Asked about the petition and the chance of a meeting with Mr Clinton, Ms Ding, 61, said that it was all up to the efforts of individuals. She said her household had already been under tight police surveillance for more than a week.

Mr Xu, 54, said the decision not to meet any dissidents meant that Mr Clinton had "abandoned his responsibilities". But he also said Mr Clinton should come to China and that he could not avoid attending a welcoming ceremony in Tiananmen Square. Mr Xu hoped the US President would

follow the gesture made recently by the Italian president, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. The latter attended a ceremony on Tiananmen Square but said that while walking on the square he had made a silent prayer for the victims of 1989. Opinions are polarised over the most effective way Mr Clin-

ton could further the human rights cause in China during his visit.

The flurry of petitions from the Chinese mainland and the large number of signatories has put the US administration in a difficult situation. It is virtually impossible to imagine a situation where Peking would

agree to a meeting between Mr Clinton and a mainland opposition figure, and an angry Chinese government would no doubt punish any dissident who addressed the President on dissidents' grievances.

There are fears also that such a meeting might jeopardise opportunities for Mr Clinton to take his human rights message to a wider audience. There are hopes that he might do this during the planned live radio phone-in programme in Shanghai, and in public speeches at Peking University and possibly a televised "town-hall meeting".

The spectacle of a US president directly addressing the Chinese people and engaging with an audience - in a way which the Chinese leadership itself never dares to do - could have a greater impact than meeting one dissident and infuriating Peking in the process.

Mr Roth said: "One has to draw a very clear distinction between the rather narrow issue of meeting the dissidents and the question of speaking one's mind on human rights."

The dozens of mainland signatories to the recent petitions have, nevertheless, urged Mr Clinton to take the risk. Describing themselves as the "voice of China's opposition", the 71 signatories also called on Mr Clinton to meet Bao Tong, the most senior communist party official to be jailed after June 1989.

Mr Bao served a seven-year sentence for allegedly leaking secrets to the Tiananmen square protesters about the crackdown and this month spoke publicly for the first time since his release, calling for curbs on the power of the party.

Hurricane kills six in Moscow

AT LEAST six people died during a sudden violent storm on Saturday night in Moscow which tore down trees, bent advertising billboards in half, damaged the roof of the Bolshoi Theatre and knocked several bunnies off the battlements around the Kremlin.

Thousands of city workers and Interior Ministry troops were deployed across the capital yesterday clearing up broken glass, fallen trees and crushed cars caused by the late-night storm - which the Russian media were describing as an uragan, or hurricane.

There was no official estimate of the damage, but repairs are certain to cost many millions of dollars.

The gale, which meteorologists said was caused by a sudden confluence of hot and cold

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

air over the capital, occurred after two weeks of unusually hot weather that has sent temperatures soaring well above 30C, set off scores of forest fires and led to a sharp rise in the number of drownings.

Storms are rare in Moscow and are generally seen by residents as exceptional, but this one was unusual by any standards. As it whipped through the streets, some 5,000 trees came crashing down - 200 of which were downed within the gardens of the Kremlin alone.

Health officials say 121 people were treated in hospital, mostly for injuries caused by flying debris or falling branches. The half-hour gale - which arrived out of the blue shortly be-

fore midnight on Saturday and seemed at times like a whirlwind - toppled a crane on the Moscow River which landed on a motor vessel.

It also ripped down scores of temporary street cafes, broke windows, tore yards of newly-laid copper from half-repaired Kremlin buildings, flooded streets, knocked balconies from the sides of buildings and brought down overhead power and tram wires.

"It was worse than a hurricane," said Mikhail Gorbunov, the night manager of a kiosk in central Moscow, who was caught in the thick of it.

Although the worst-hit areas were south and south-west Moscow, the storm caused damage and power losses throughout much of the metropolitan area and affected at



An uprooted tree leans against the Kremlin wall in Moscow. Sergei Teterin/Reuters

least 20 surrounding towns.

The storm has, for the second time this year, set Vury Luzhkov, the pugilistic mayor of Moscow, against Russia's weather forecasters.

Mr Luzhkov, a possible contender for the presidency, personally sought to control the

weather during Moscow's 850th anniversary last year by using aircraft to seed approaching rain clouds, causing them to dump their load outside the city limits. He has repeatedly made clear that he dislikes unexpected weather.

In April he criticised Russia's

forecasters for failing to predict a cold snap that suddenly buried Moscow under a foot of snow. Yesterday he gave them another tongue-lashing for failing to warn his 10 million citizens about the uragan - another freak phenomenon in a strange meteorological year.

Australia's PM makes stand over Hanson

BY JANE NELSON
in Canberra

THE AUSTRALIAN government plans to step up its attack on the populist politician Pauline Hanson when parliament resumes today, in what will be her first appearance in the chamber since her party's stunning electoral debut.

"I think the gloves will definitely be off now," one backbencher said.

The anti-immigration, protectionist One Nation party won almost one-quarter of the vote in the Queensland state poll last weekend, a result that has stunned many Australians but has given her legitimacy as a political force.

Australia's embattled Prime Minister, John Howard, took a personal stand against the anti-immigration populist on Sunday as his conservative coalition struggled for survival. He announced that he would put Ms Hanson's One Nation party last on how-to-vote cards addressed to his own electorate, thus joining a growing number of conservatives who have decided to give secondary votes to the opposition Labor party rather than One Nation.



Pauline Hanson: populist

Australian voters have to number candidates in order of preference, with those votes often used to decide who has won a seat if the primary vote is too close.

"Some of the policies of One Nation made people who form some minorities in our community feel a bit uneasy," Mr Howard said. "No party should behave in a way that makes any one section of the community feel unwelcome."

Opposition leader Kim Beazley also reaffirmed his party's decision to put One Nation last, despite a strong possibility that he could lose his own seat to a Hanson candidate.

Mahathir wins nepotism row

THE PRIME MINISTER of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, appeared to have emerged the winner yesterday at a party convention which was electrified by allegations of nepotism and corruption in his government.

In a conference hall buzzing for three days with talk of corruption and cronyism in the upper echelons of the governing United Malays National Organisation party (UMNO), Mr Mahathir released at the weekend a list of people who had been awarded government contracts and promised more names.

On the list, significantly, were some of the very people

BY RANJAN ROY
in Kuala Lumpur

who had accused his leadership of cronyism.

Mr Mahathir, 72, Asia's longest-serving leader, described the list as "just a start". Among the prominent names listed was that of Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, the powerful leader of the party's youth wing, whom the local press described as the "No 1 Antagonist" for spearheading the campaign against corruption in UMNO.

Prior to the annual convention, Mr Zahid had threatened to provide a list of benefactors of cronyism. His list never ma-

terialised, though he called for an end to nepotism in his speech before the UMNO Youth wing.

"Mahathir has secured his position for now and the immediate future," said Jomo Sundram, professor of economics at the University of Malaya. "The scenario of a change in the leadership, following the change of leadership in other Asian countries affected by the economic crisis, appears unlikely."

Mr Jomo was referring to Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia, where economic turmoil has triggered political upheaval and leaders' downfall.

Bissau rebels fight for capital

GUINEA-BISSAU'S government

yesterday ruled out peace talks with rebel forces unless they declare an immediate ceasefire, as the warring factions waged gunbattles in the nearly deserted capital.

The rebels must also explain their motives for staging a takeover bid, said Male Sane, Guinea-Bissau's Minister for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

The rebels launched their coup attempt from a military garrison in Bissau two weeks ago under the command of the country's former army chief of staff, Ansumane Mane.

Candjura Indjal, leader of

BY IAN STEWART
in Senegal

Guinea-Bissau's main opposition party, *Uniao for Change*, meanwhile offered to mediate talks along with Portugal's ambassador, Henrique da Silva and the Catholic bishop of Bissau.

The mutiny has sparked two weeks of fierce fighting in the former Portuguese colony on Africa's western tip and has drawn in troops from neighbouring Senegal and Republic of Guinea to support the government.

The rebels want the removal of President Joao Bernardo

Vieira, whom they accused of gross corruption. General Mane, a hero of Guinea-Bissau's war of independence against Portugal, was fired from the army early this year for allegedly running guns to Senegalese separatists.

Senegalese military officials said yesterday that fighting was continuing around Bissau's international airport. There were reports that the rebels controlled all roads into the city.

The number of casualties from the fighting remains unclear, though more than a hundred rotting corpses lay in the streets of the capital.

TREVOR PHILLIPS

'Most racism does not consist of gross acts of discrimination or verbal abuse, though heaven knows there's enough of that'

— THE MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

FOUR EVER SPICE?

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Hip Miraflores (above), where Carmen the 'dog queen' (right) brings together a diverse group of canine owners



Lucien Chauvin

Dogs bridge class divide

PERUVIANS celebrate birthdays with flare and Hobbes is no exception. To celebrate this year, he and a group of friends scooped down cakes, hotdogs and lots of sweet potatoes - on all fours. Hobbes is my overweight Labrador retriever.

In only a year of living with me, Hobbes has made a name for himself in my neighbourhood. Miraflores, a rather hip district of Lima, by begging for food, doing tricks and just being himself.

Miraflores is home to only 150,000 of Lima's 7 million people, but is the whole city's preferred night spot. It boasts some of Lima's best five-star restaurants and hotels and the bulk of the art galleries. Nearly every street has an eatery, coffee shop or bar; the choice spans from the quaint Café Voltaire, which caters to older, wealthy women to raucous gay bars.

Sunday is a big day for Miraflores. Families flock to the parks or ride bikes on the same of the major streets, which are closed on Sundays to cars.

With its spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean about 100 metres below, the big meeting

A DOG'S LIFE IN LIMA

place on Sundays is the "Love Park", so-called because of a massive sculpture by local artist Victor Delfino of a man and woman kissing.

The coastal parks of Miraflores are a far cry from the rest of Lima. Technically, the capital of Peru is a desert. It never rains in Lima, so the grass has to be watered several times a week. Few districts in the city can afford such a luxury.

The neighbourhood is home to some fantastically wealthy people, lots of middle-class families and a good many expatriates like myself.

There is also poverty. The area is divided by Pardo Avenue, a broad, tree-lined boulevard, which runs down toward the ocean, is clean and orderly; the other is a picture of urban decay. My side looks back to the days when Miraflores was an ocean-front resort. The other side was where the servants of the rich lived.

Only two years ago, some of the homes with an ocean view also had a view of Miraflores'

only shantytown, a collection of huts nestled into a cranny on the cliffs that led down to the ocean. The shantytown is now gone. It was filled in and turned into a park, too.

Lima is unusual in comparison with many of the other cities in Latin America in that people from wildly different social classes are neighbours. This can be seen in the dog club that gathers each night at the "Navy" park, so-called because of the old lighthouse there. It is an eclectic group of dog owners that cuts across generations, religions, nationalities, social classes and sexual orientations.

Take my partner Kique and me. We are the first gay men to belong to the group. At first we feared they might shy away from us when they discovered our "secret". Although gay bars have sprouted in the past few years, Lima remains a rather conservative city when it comes to homosexuality - but we've had few problems.

Carmen San Roman, the "dog queen" in my neigh-

bourhood, is the impetus behind the group. If Carmen likes you, you're in - and fortunately she likes us.

An unemployed, single mother who survives off the alimony she has to fight for each month with her former husband, Carmen has six dogs - a few English boxers, a beagle and an unidentifiable half-breed.

Carmen's life is a good example of the way many urban Peruvians live, struggling to get by in country with a rapidly changing economy.

While the government's strict monetary policies have curtailed hyperinflation - which reached 7,000 per cent in 1990 - jobs are scarce and most people are not convinced that Peru's economy will continue to grow.

At the other extreme in our dog lovers' group is my friend Javier Bellina. In his sixties, Javier earns a six-figure salary as head of personnel safety for one of Peru's largest construction companies. They are great friends that goes beyond the disparity in their bank accounts.

There may be 7 million people in Lima, but somehow it

still seems small. And Miraflores, with all its possibilities for fun, is one of the city's top draws.

PARKS SEEM to be the big issue in Miraflores. The district government opened its newest park, Parque Salazar, two weeks ago with fireworks, big band music and lots of applause.

Javier, from the dog club, was in charge of making sure the work was done without accidents. The park will form part of a new mall being built beneath it and which will extend down the cliff to the ocean. Not everyone applauds.

A new political group, Save Miraflores, is fielding candidates to challenge incumbent Mayor Fernando Andrade. They are particularly irate over a plan to build new single-family homes on streets, like Pardo Avenue.

The fact that the project is creating jobs - Peru's unemployment and underemployment rates total nearly 80 per cent - has, however, taken the wind out of their political sails.

LUCIEN CHAUVIN

Czech left turn fails to end crisis

CZECH VOTERS moved to the left and gave the Social Democrats a victory in elections held over the weekend. However, the margin may have been too narrow for the party to form a viable government or resolve the political instability that has plagued the country since the collapse of the centre-right coalition led by former prime minister Vaclav Klaus.

"We have suffered a victory," one Social Democrat deputy said. Unofficial results give the Social Democrats 32.3 per cent of the vote, an improvement over their showing two years ago and the party's first electoral success since the 1989 revolution.

But their bitter rivals in Mr Klaus's right-wing Civic Democratic Party received 27.7 per cent of the vote. This was a remarkable comeback for the former Czech leader and suggests many voters were ready to overlook the economic crisis and financial scandals which marked his last year in office and led to his resignation in late November.

As his party was winning single-digit support in the polls only three months ago, Mr

BY SIEGFRIED MORTIKOWITZ in Prague

Klaus was justifiably moved to call the outcome "an unbelievable dream result".

But the elections may yet turn into a nightmare for Pres-



Klaus: dream result

ident Vaclav Havel, who will start the negotiations for a new government today by meeting with the heads of the four democratic parties.

President Havel will probably first ask Milos Zeman, the head of the Social Democrats, to try to forge a governing coalition. However, Mr Zeman's possibilities are limited. He has said that he favours a coalition with the Christian Democrats, on the model of the Austrian government. But the numbers simply do not add up.

Under the Czech proportional electoral system, the Social Democrats will have 74 deputies in the 200-seat lower house of parliament. With the 20 seats allocated to the Christian Democrats, this coalition would fall well short of the necessary majority. And Mr Havel is unlikely to accept a minority government led by Mr Zeman that relies on the tacit support of the hardline Communist Party, which received 10 per cent of the vote and will have 24 seats in the new parliament.

A more likely scenario would have a new version of the conservative coalition Mr Klaus headed for five years.

The most surprising result was the failure of the extreme right-wing Republicans to surpass the 5 per cent hurdle required for representation in the Chamber of Deputies.

Iran reform setback

IRAN'S PARLIAMENT sharply rebuked President Mohammad Khatami's drive for greater political openness, yesterday by forcing out the country's influential interior minister in a vote of no-confidence.

State-run Iranian television said later that president Khatami had named the interior minister, Abdollah Nouri, the man he described last week as "a blessing", to be his vice president for development affairs, a new post.

The conservative-dominated Majlis voted 137 to 117, with 11 abstentions, against Mr Nouri,

BY JONATHAN LYONS in Tehran

blaming his modest reforms for what it called an unacceptable rise in social and political tensions in the Islamic Republic.

After the result of the secret ballot was read out, there were cries of "God is Greatest" from the conservative benches.

Before the vote, Mr Nouri's critics took the rostrum to denounce him for allowing public rallies by opposition student groups, replacing old-line officials at the Interior Ministry and taking sides in increasing-

ly public discord between rival factions. The deputies may have been motivated in part by fear that Mr Nouri could use his position to influence the outcome of parliamentary elections, due in March 2000, putting their own seats at risk.

Mr Nouri, an eloquent cleric from the central city of Isfahan, defended his year-long tenure, warning deputies that failure to modernise the political system would alienate a new generation of educated Iranians who have come of age since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

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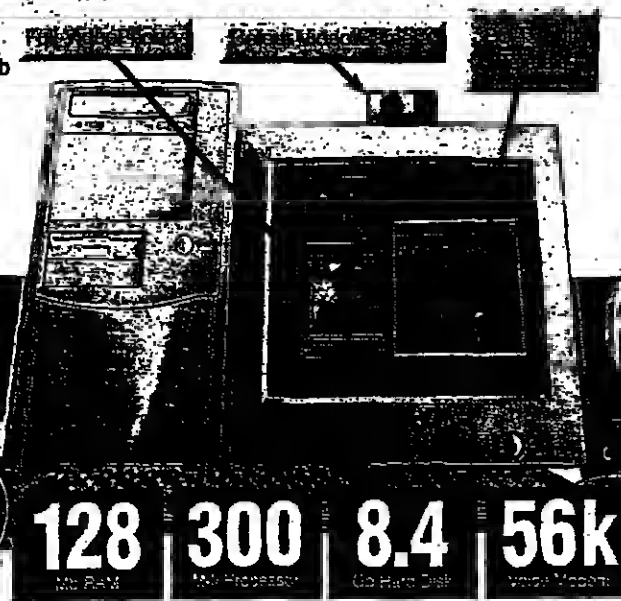
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BUSINESS

G7 fails to calm Asian fears

BRIEFING

Crisis worsens in South Africa

IN SOUTH AFRICA even the most loyal members of the National Party are joining in marches demanding that the government honour its pledge to increase salaries in the public services. They are protesting against an even-tightening fiscal policy as South Africa battles its way through a sixth successive week of speculative assaults on the currency.

Last week the rand fell 5.5 per cent to its lowest levels ever against the dollar and pound. Although the rand has fallen only 11 per cent against the dollar this year, the latest currency crisis has shaken the government and central bank far more than the rand's previous dive in early 1996. In less than a month the central bank has



thrown about half its total foreign reserves, more than R26bn (£2.8bn), into the breach to little avail. Punitive central bank interest rates have soared. Chris Stals (left), the governor of the central bank, last week threw up his hands in an admission of the bank's impotence in the face of currency speculators.

Page 17

Governor warns on markets

EDDIE GEORGE, the Governor of the Bank of England, has warned that the stock market may be becoming overvalued, echoing a similar warning issued last year by his US counterpart Alan Greenspan. Mr George yesterday said that earnings growth would have to be "remarkable by any kind of historical standards" if stock market prices were to continue to rise. Mr George added that the Bank was concerned about the knock-on effects of the economic crisis in Asia, even though the direct effects were unlikely to have much impact on the British economy.

Meanwhile, he argued that rising wages and higher prices in the service industry were the largest threats to low inflation. "The increase in earnings is inevitably going to affect all parts of the economy," he said. But his comments were dismissed by Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, who said that, excluding bonuses, earnings were not growing as quickly as Mr George suggested. Mr George conceded that there was a dilemma in balancing the domestic economy, which is growing strongly, and the export sector, which has been hit by exchange rates.

Page 16

FINANCIAL MARKETS are braced for another rocky ride this week after the meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations in Tokyo failed to secure any new public commitment from Japan to revive its shrinking economy or address its debt-burdened banking system. Analysts said they expected downward pressure on the yen and volatile sessions in Asian equities markets.

"This will disappoint the market and won't stop the capital outflow from Japan," said Avinash Persaud, global strategist at JP Morgan. "G7 policy-makers are focused on what's necessary in the long term rather than how to deal with the crisis today."

The G7 meeting came after joint US and Japanese intervention last week changed the direction of the dollar's trading against the yen. Officials said after the meeting that concrete action from Japan was "urgently needed" and although intervention last week had created a "window of opportunity" for Japan to repair its economy, the chance would not last for ever. Japan also ruled out specific action on solving its banks' bad loan problems until after the national elections on 12 July.

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

The meeting closed with a bland statement that analysts said would not calm market nerves. It said: "It is of vital importance to Japan, to the recovery of Asia and to the entire world economy, that Japan restore its banking system to health, achieve domestic demand-led growth and open and de-regulate its markets."

"There is a risk for a lot of disappointment," said Nick Parsons, chief currency strategist at Paribas Capital Markets in London. "The markets were looking not for promises of action but action itself."

Alison Cottrell, chief international economist at Paine Webber, said market disappointment was inevitable. "Japan was not going to come up with a permanent income tax cut over the weekend," she said. "Realistically, what could they have done?"

She added that US intervention to support the yen last week was more about supporting the Chinese yuan as President Clinton prepares for a trip to the Far East this week.

Michael Hughes, director of Baring



Japanese Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga and his deputy, Eisuke Sakakibara, at the G7 meeting in Tokyo

Asset Management, agreed saying: "The intervention is now being interpreted as political rather than economic." He said the core challenge for Japan was to rebuild the credit base of its economy. "That has three aspects," he said. "To get rid of the lame

duck banks that are technically bust, to ensure bank profitability is enhanced and to encourage partnership deals with outside groups."

On market reaction to the G7 meeting he said: "There is no new policy to get your teeth into. So the situation

hasn't really changed. But there is a degree of value beginning to appear in Asia. People are looking for an opportunity to go back in but there are not enough signals yet to show that this is the time to do it."

David Kern, chief economist at NatWest, said: "The market is very fragile. So far the support of the yen was successful but there are many risks, and chances are some time over the next few weeks, the markets will again attack the yen."

Mr Persaud at JP Morgan said increased savings in Japan by people fearing unemployment and falling wages, together with the lack of a good investment return, were the forces driving the yen lower. "The only thing that can be done to halt the yen's decline is a shift in monetary policies on both sides," he said, adding that the Bank of Japan should no longer have a bias towards easing interest rates, and the United States should no longer have a bias towards tightening them. "Such statements would have sent a very important message to the market place that they are backing up the intervention with monetary policy," he said.

Young's faces fight on share revamp

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

YOUNG & CO, the South London brewery, is heading for a showdown with Guinness Peat Group, Sir Ron Brierley's investment vehicle, after rejecting plans to reorganise its share structure.

In a circular sent out over the weekend, Young's board urges its shareholders to vote against resolutions which Guinness Peat has tabled for the group's annual general meeting on 21 July.

John Young, chairman, said the proposals are "transparently self-serving and are utterly without merit so far as the success and development of Young & Co is concerned".

GPG has tabled resolutions which, if passed, will force the company to enfranchise its non-voting shares, redeem its debenture and preference stock, and seek the authority to buy back its share capital.

However, the investment group's proposals have little chance of being passed. Roughly 60 per cent of Young's voting shares are in the hands of family members and former employees, virtually guaranteeing a victory for the board. The Young family holds four seats on the board.

Nevertheless, the annual general meeting is likely to be embarrassing for Young's, since other institutional investors, which include PDM and Prudential, are likely to vote in favour of Guinness Peat's proposals.

A spokesman for Guinness Peat said: "The rise in



John Young, chairman, is confident of defeating GPG resolutions Edward Webb

Young's share price since we came up with our proposals suggests the market is favourably disposed to them. We hope the board would act in such a way to keep the share price moving in the right direction."

Young's publicly traded voting shares hit a new high of 790p on Friday, up from less

than 600p a few weeks ago, on hopes that a change in share structure would unlock the company's value.

However, Young's board argues that its strategy of expanding retail outlets, investing in pubs and promoting the Young's brand, are more likely to enhance its shareholder value.

Meanwhile, GPG is also attacking Staveley, the troubled industrial group in which it holds a 13 per cent stake.

It plans to table a resolution at Staveley's AGM on July 28 forcing the company to sell off British Salt, its salt-making subsidiary, and return the cash to shareholders.

BA set to accept tougher conditions

BY PETER THAL LARSEN
in London
AND KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

BRITISH AIRWAYS' two-year battle with the European Commission to win approval for its alliance with American Airlines is expected to end in the next two weeks with the UK airline accepting a compromise deal.

The Commission is this week expected to agree a plan which would require British Airways to sell off about 250 landing slots at Heathrow in order to obtain regulatory clearance for the alliance. The proposal will be formally submitted for approval at the Commission's council meeting on 1 July.

The compromise is believed to have been brokered on Friday by Neil Kinnock, the European transport commissioner, at a meeting with Karel van Miert, his counterpart at the competition directorate. BA is likely to accept the deal, even though its conditions are tougher than those proposed by the Office of Fair Trading when it looked into the case. The OFT suggested that BA be forced to give up 168 landing slots.

Crucial to the deal will be whether BA is required to give up the slots immediately, or whether it is allowed to surrender them over a two or three-year period. The terms of payment, if any, will also be important in determining whether

BA accepts the agreement. Nevertheless, the Commission's proposal is likely to be a lot softer than originally envisaged.

Mr van Miert's first proposal was that the two airlines be forced to give up 350 slots in order to win clearance. But BA made it clear that it would rather walk away from the deal than submit to those conditions.

The company has drawn up contingency plans in case the Commission's proposals prove to be onerous. They include a less far-reaching alliance with American Airlines as well as potential partnerships with other carriers.

The softening in the Commission's stance is thought to be the result of Mr Kinnock's involvement. The former leader of the Labour party has pointed out that, since BA announced its deal with AA two years ago, it has been overtaken by other airlines which have signed similar alliances.

BA may well be able to reduce the conditions even further. Although the Commission is responsible for the proposals, Margaret Beckett, the Trade and Industry Secretary, is responsible for implementing them. As a result, the UK government may be able to give BA some leeway in the implementation of the proposals.

However, the airline still faces a dogfight with US regulators, who have yet to give the alliance their blessing.

Burger chains breach minimum wage levels

EMPLOYERS in the service and retail sectors, including high street hamburger chains, are expected to ignore the lower minimum wage for 18- to 21-year-olds and pay the full £3.60 a hour.

McDonald's intend to apply the adult rate to all fully trained employees over the age of 17 and Burger King to all trained staff whatever their age, the Labour Research Department has been told.

Last week, after prolonged cabinet in-fighting, the Government announced that a statutory floor on pay of £3.60 an hour would apply to those aged 22 and over, that 18- to 21-year-olds would be covered by a £3 limit and that there would be no minimum for those aged 16 and 17.

There is mounting evidence, however, that employers are moving away from rates based on age, to wages based on competence.

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

The GMB general union will reveal tomorrow that a range of employers in the food and leisure industry covering nearly 100,000 workers are rejecting the idea of an "age wage".

Derek Hunter, a national official with the GMB, will tell the union's food and leisure conference that deals have been signed by companies in food manufacturing and wholesale grocery which either abolish age-related rates or significantly reduce the "differential". One big company, Nestle-Rowntree, recently abandoned lower rates for 16- and 17-year-olds except those on training schemes.

Some 75 per cent of employees at Burger King are below the age of 22 and the lowest rate for trained staff of £3.39 is expected to be up-rated to £3.60 whatever their age. At

McDonald's the lowest wage of £3.50 for those over 18 would be raised to at least £3.60 even for 18- to 21-year-olds.

Mr Hunter said the Low Pay Commission's decision to recommend a lower rate for younger people flew in the face of trends in the labour market. "Employers are responding to the logic of the argument that if you are competent to perform a task, you should get the rate for the job," he said.

Alastair Hatchett, of research organisation Incomes Data Services, found that businesses are moving away from scales based on age towards shorter-term trial periods or "skills and competency-based entry rates".

Mr Hatchett says the trend has been most marked in the retail sector and began in the late 1980s. Tesco, Sainsbury's and WH Smith began to raise their "youth" rates eight years ago, he said.

Jobs are more secure than people think

JOB INSECURITY really is mostly in the mind - just as the Conservatives claimed, to great scorn, ahead of last year's general election. This is the conclusion of an adviser to Gordon Brown, in a study of changes in the typical length of time people stay in a job, published today.

Paul Gregg, a Treasury adviser on job-market issues, and his colleague, Jonathan Wadsworth, found that the typical length of time an average worker had been in a job had barely changed between 1985 and 1995. It had declined by just four months to five years and two months. And this typical person can expect a job to last as long again, as most jobs last for just over 10 years.

Yet the sense of insecurity remains high, with less than half the workforce believing their job is secure, compared with about two-thirds in the depths of the recession.

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The virtually static picture reported in the new research consists of three separate trends. Older men have suffered the biggest fall in job tenure, with the typical male over 50 having been in the same job for 12 years and 10 months in 1995 compared to 15 years and 10 months a decade earlier.

But women under 50, and especially those with children, have seen their job tenure increase over the same decade from just under two years to just over three years in the case of 25- to 34-year-olds with dependent children.

On top of these two divergent trends for older men and younger women, the ageing of the population has helped increase job tenure because older workers have been in the same position for longer and

quit less often than young ones. Since older men are the least likely group to have quit voluntarily, they have been the victims of the shake-out across much of British industry. "For this group at least, then, the end of the belief in a job for life is something whose passage is mourned," the authors say.

But Messrs Gregg and Wadsworth, writing in the latest issue of *Centrepiece*, the magazine of the LSE's Centre for Economic Performance, conclude: "The scale of the changes taking place is relatively small. It is not at all clear that they are substantial enough to justify public perceptions."

In other words, the Conservatives were right in their claim that there was little evidence to back up the sense of increasing insecurity. Whatever it stems from, it is not, for most of us, the increased risk of having to leave a job.

FTSE 100	
1000	1000
900	900
800	800
700	700
600	600
500	500
400	400
300	300
200	200
100	100
0	0

Index	Close	10% of 100	10% of 100	10% of 100	10% of 100	10% of 100	10% of 100	10% of 100	10% of 100
FTSE 100	5748.10	-1.70	-0.38	6130.5	4332.8	3.291			
FTSE 250	4583.60	-2.70	-0.48	5970.9	4386.2	2.483			
FTSE 350	2727.50	-33.30	-1.18	2960.1	2141.8	3.892			
FTSE All Share	2728.37	-33.44	-1.25	2872.04	2106.59	3.841			
FTSE SmallCap	2694.80	-61.20	-2.22	2739.8	2182.1	3.039			
FTSE Floating	1470.50	-31.80	-2.12	1517.1	1225.2	3.105			
FTSE AIM	1119.60	-14.20	-1.25	1146.9	955.9	1.147			
FTSE EPOC 100	1002.50								
Dow Jones	8713.87	-127.07	-1.38	9281.91	8971.37	1.637			
Nikkei	16287.66	-244.65	-1.49	16510.78	14888.21	0.998			
Hang Seng	8281.21	-576.67	-6.95	16870.31	7391.89	4.267			
Dax	5702.51	-11.78	-0.20	5767.7	3487.24	2.668			

UK INTEREST RATES		US INTEREST RATES	
3 month	5.50	3 month	5.50
6 month	5.50	6 month	5.50
1 year	5.50	1 year	5.50
2 year	5.50	2 year	5.50
3 year	5.50	3 year	5.50
4 year	5.50	4 year	5.50
5 year	5.50	5 year	5.50
10 year	5.50	10 year	5.50
15 year	5.50	15 year	5.50
20 year	5.50	20 year	5.50
25 year	5.50	25 year	5.50
30 year	5.50	30 year	5.50

MONEY MARKET RATES		BOND YIELDS	
3 month	5.50	3 month	5.50
6 month	5.50	6 month	5.50
1 year	5.50	1 year	5.50
2 year	5.50	2 year	5.50
3 year	5.50	3 year	5.50
4 year	5.50	4 year	5.50
5 year	5.50	5 year	5.50
10 year	5.50	10 year	5.50
15 year	5.50	15 year	5.50
20 year	5.50	20 year	5.50
25 year	5.50	25 year	5.50
30 year	5.50	30 year	5.50

CURRENCIES	
£/\$	1.6742
£/DM	1.7852
£/¥	167.42
£/₹	47.54
£/₪	1.6742
£/₦	167.42
£/₯	167.42
£/₰	167.42
£/₱	167.42
£/₲	167.42
£/₳	167.42
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£/₿	167.42

POUND			DOLLAR				
	Friday	Wk's ch	Yr ago		Friday	Wk's ch	Yr ago
Dollar	1.6752	+ 4.35c	1.6473	Sterling	0.5973	-1.59p	0.6069
D-Mark	2.5923	+ 4.90p	2.5443	D-Mark	1.7852	-1.95p	1.7243
Yen	227.50	+7.84	188.16	Yen	136.13	+48.07	114.22
£ index	100.30	+1.40	100.40	\$ index	110.60	-3.10	102.50

US rescue is only a start for Japan

THE SUDDEN decision of the United States to probably taken by President Clinton himself to engage in direct purchases of yen in the foreign exchange market had a dramatic impact. Yet it raises as many questions as it answers.

Why did US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin acquiesce in this intervention only a week after telling Congress that such action would be quite likely to be pointless? What role did the Chinese threat to devalue the yuan play in the decision? What, if anything, did US National Security Advisers say to the President about the consequences of an Asian meltdown?

Did the President receive any concrete assurances of key policy changes by Japan before making the decision? To what extent was the President influenced by the imminent visit to Beijing, which starts this week? Or by the drop in US share prices as the yen declined?

Majority opinion in the financial markets takes a cynical view on all these subjects. Most investors seem to believe that the President, rather than Robert Rubin, was instrumental in launching the intervention, and that he was so influenced by devaluation threats from China, coming just ahead of his visit to Beijing, that he was willing to order purchases of yen without getting anything concrete from Tokyo in return.

Even if this cynical interpretation turns out to be valid, the US will be extremely pleased with the early impact of its decision. Its timing was impeccable, with short covering in the foreign exchange markets leading to a bounce of 8 per cent in the value of the yen over three days. With the President's personal credibility now tied up with the health of the yen, the US now has every incentive to trumpet loudly any impending policy change from Japan. And, under pressure from Wash-



GAVYN DAVIES

Even if the US muscles Japan into restructuring, it is probably too late to save the economy from a deep recession

ington, we can expect the rest of the G7 to follow suit - with their mouths, if not with their money.

It would be surprising if this barrage of G7 activity failed to strengthen the yen for a while, and it should therefore offer some respite to the other crisis economies in Asia. Clearly, the weakness of the yen had become the most potent single threat to Asian stability, and the US intervention will at least buy some time for policy-makers to address the situation. But, as Bob Rubin knows only too well, intervention will only work if it is followed by decisive policy changes in Japan.

The US believes the implementation of an emergency rescue package for the Japanese banking system is central to Asian economic recovery. This is far from clear - while a healthy banking system may be necessary for economic recovery to take place, it is almost certainly not suf-

ficient. Japan's key problem is a shortage of aggregate demand, and the weakness of the banking sector is only one of many reasons why consumer and company demand has imploded.

For most of this decade, the sluggish growth in monetary aggregates has been triggered by an absence of money demand, stemming from a myriad of other causes outside the financial sector, not by a shortage of credit supply. Certainly, the weakness of the banking system has contributed to the dire state of the equity market and to the decline in consumer confidence. But even if a healthy banking system had been magically dropped into the Japanese economy in, say, 1992, GDP growth would have remained extremely subdued since then.

Only in recent months has the weakness of the financial sector taken on a more central role, now threatening to do active - and potentially fatal - damage to the rest of the economy. The banking failures of last autumn stunned the financial markets, with the collapse in market

confidence leading to a tightening in effective monetary conditions which has destabilised the real economy.

This unintended shift in monetary conditions has had three key features. First, there has been a credit crunch in the money markets. Healthy banks have become increasingly reluctant to provide liquidity to weaker institutions, so funding costs in the Tokyo money markets ("Japan premia") have increased sharply.

Funding pressures meant that bank lending to companies in need was beginning to shrink as commercial banks were forced to cut their balance sheets. The Bank of Japan had no choice but to inject liquidity aggressively into the money markets. The resulting 30-40 per cent annual growth rates in the balance sheet of the central bank has tentatively brought the credit crunch under control, preventing renewed bank insolvencies in recent months.

But the injection of central bank liquidity into the commercial banking sector has not been passed on to the rest of

the economy. In fact, the reverse has occurred. Banks are becoming increasingly risk-averse and have accumulated liquidity, while becoming much more circumspect about extending loans to small and medium-sized companies.

This is connected to the second cause of the unintended monetary squeeze. Alongside the credit crunch, a "capital crunch" has simultaneously occurred in the banking sector. A series of different events - the increase in capital adequacy ratios agreed at Basel, declining real estate values, the elimination of balance sheet reserves as the equity market has declined, and lately the weakness of the yen - have weakened the capital position of the banks, further eroding their ability to lend. Largely as a result of this, private sector money growth has slumped to all-time lows and companies are reporting that the availability of credit has become unprecedentedly tight.

The third element of the unintended monetary tightening has been a sharp increase in real interest rates, despite Her-

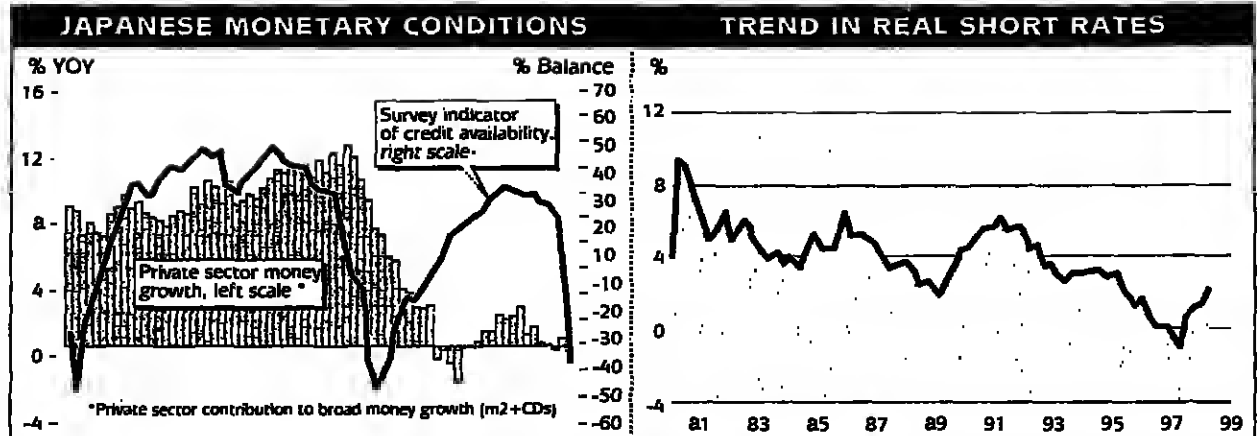
culean efforts by the central bank to achieve the opposite result. This has happened for two reasons - price inflation has turned negative and credit spreads have widened for small and medium-sized companies. For most companies, the real cost of borrowing has - perversely - ratcheted upwards.

The resulting monetary crunch in the Japanese economy could not have come at a worse time. Excess inventories are currently building at a record rate and companies are finding it increasingly difficult to finance this build-up of unwanted stock. The inevitable result will be a savage programme of inventory shedding, which may more than offset the benefits from the large fiscal easing planned for the next few months.

Ironically, an emergency programme activated now to address the strictures of the banking sector may actually make these immediate problems even worse. The closure of weak banks could potentially lead to the cancellation of crucial credit lines to those companies most at risk, thus increasing bankruptcy threats. Meanwhile, the closure and merger of troubled financial institutions is scarcely likely to stabilise the labour market or help restore consumer confidence.

The upshot is that even if the US now muscles the Japanese authorities into an impressive programme of financial sector restructuring, this has probably come too late to save the economy from a deep recession. A further easing in fiscal policy is urgently needed and this must be far larger, and more innovative, than anything the Japanese government has previously imagined.

Otherwise, last week's dramatic recovery in the value of the yen will prove to be nothing more than a dead cat bounce.



Concern over pension fund voting levels

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

THE NATIONAL Association of Pension Funds says it is considering launching an independent inquiry into low levels of voting at company meetings by its members. It says members' voting levels are falling despite the efforts of Margaret Beckett and the Hampel committee on corporate governance which submits its final document this week.

The association is concerned that despite pressure applied by the Government, and the impending code, voting levels are still below 40 per cent and appear to be falling.

"We are very concerned," an association spokesman said. "1998 is really a test year for voting performance and at the end of it Margaret Beckett has said she will look at the situation and legislation is possible."

The association says it is particularly worried given that more funds have adopted formal voting policies and many have appointed managers responsible for co-ordination and policing those policies. "We have done all we can to persuade members," the spokesman said. "But we may have to look at commissioning an investigation into why this is not being put into practice."

New figures produced by

Manifest, the corporate governance consultancy, show that proxy voting levels are stuck at below 40 per cent.

Draft figures to be published later this week show that between May and September 1997 the average number of votes cast at company annual meetings was 38.4 per cent. Between May 1997 and April 1998 the figure was 36.98 per cent.

Voting at FTSE100 meetings fell from 43.4 per cent to 41.53 per cent. But among second-line FTSE250 companies the fall was dramatic. In May to September 1997 the number of votes cast was 47.3 per cent, falling to 42.67 more recently. The highest level of voting

was 82 per cent for one company, which had issued a profits warning and undergone a strategic re-structuring. The lowest vote level was 17 per cent. Investment trusts continue to receive low levels of voting support with 1-7 per cent not unusual.

A key feature of the Hampel committee was a call to institutions to adopt a considered policy on voting their shares and to make their votes count.

The report made several key recommendations that are expected to be incorporated into a "supercode". These include the appointment of a "lead" non-executive director and a suggestion that compa-



Ronnie Hampel, corporate governance chairman

nies use their annual meetings to communicate more information to shareholders through presentations.

The report did not recommend that the separation of the chairman and chief executive positions be made a firm rule and supported the unitary board over continental two-tier board structures.

City 'will add another 100,000 jobs by 2015'

THE CITY of London will continue to grow by as much as 7 per cent a year over the next 25 years, creating an additional 100,000 jobs by 2015, according to a report out today.

In *Growth Prospects of City Industries*, Professor Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research says: "The study's forecasts are based on the identification and consideration of long-term changes in the world economy, such as the rapid growth of markets in countries such as China and India, rather than short-term expectations of business growth."

He continues: "We are seeing a long-term shift towards free trade and liberalisation, and the widespread privatisation

of state industries throughout the world. These changes are going to continue, whatever happens in the short term."

Judith Mayhew, chairman of the City of London Corporation's policy and resources committee said central London stood to benefit from these changes.

"London is a financial centre with deep liquidity and an enormous volume of international trading," she said. "The corporation will take the lead necessary to prepare for the increase in office space and transportation links which will be needed to cope with this growth."

The report also challenges the argument that European

Monetary Union could lead to the marginalisation of the City. It says pessimists on the City's prospects have failed to explain why particular forms of trade would cease to pass through London with the onset of the single currency.

The report calculates that City output has grown by 7 per cent a year since the 1970s, compared to overall GDP growth of 2 per cent. It says City employment has been growing by about 1.5 per cent a year.

It suggests that there were about 275,000 workers in City-related jobs in the UK in 1995. Of these, it says about 195,000 worked in the Square Mile with a further 55,000 elsewhere in London.

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George warns on rising markets

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday echoed his US counterpart Alan Greenspan with a warning that the stock market was in danger of becoming overheated. "We have seen an extraordinary sustained rise in stock market prices," he said. "But for the rise to continue, you've got to assume a rate of growth of earnings that would be remarkable by any kind of historical standards."

Mr George questioned whether that was likely. "If the prospects for earnings fall down, won't there have to be an adjustment in the stock market?" he asked.

The Governor's warning was similar to that of Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, who last year warned that the financial markets were guilty of "irrational exuberance".

Mr George said there were good reasons why the stock market had risen so steadily until now. "A lot of that can be explained by the move of the world economy to a more stable general environment, so that nominal yields on riskless assets have come down very substantially and you'd expect other asset prices to rise to reflect that." However, this adjustment did not mean that share prices would carry on rising indefinitely.

Speaking on BBC Televi-

sion, Mr George said the Bank of England was concerned about the effect on Britain from the economic crisis in Asia.

He noted that some individual companies had already been affected. "But across the economy as a whole, that's not yet a huge effect, and actually we don't expect the impact on the United Kingdom directly to be as great as it is going to be for example on the United States economy and possibly on the continental European economy."

"But we then expect that there could be an indirect effect as this thing accumulates, and so we're very concerned about the situation in Asia."

Turning to the domestic economy, Mr George said that higher wages and rising prices in the service industry were the largest threats to stable prices.

"The increase in earnings is inevitably going to affect all parts of the economy," he said. He added that while the prices of wholesale goods had been relatively stable, "service prices have been trending up".

However, Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors said employers should not get all the blame for rising inflation. She said that, if bonus payments were stripped out, pay settlements were running at 4.3 per cent rather than the headline figure of 5.2 per cent.

- Agencies



Eddie George echoed his US counterpart in warning that the stock market was becoming overheated

JAMES KEEN, a former convertibles and warrants dealer at UBS, is suing UBS and its former head of international equities Hector Sants, over information the investment bank provided to the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) about Mr Keen in 1994.

Mr Keen was sacked by UBS in 1994 and was subsequently the subject of proceedings by the SFA, proceedings Mr Keen has always contested. The SFA also proceeded against Mr Keen's boss, Mark Larkin.

The SFA's case against Mr Keen was that he had breached the regulator's "marking to market" rules. These require that securities such as derivatives are valued on a bank's books each day according to their current market value.

Mr Keen, of Hopton Street, London, is now suing UBS Ltd, UBS Research Ltd and UBS Services Ltd, as well as Mr Sants, for "damages for loss and damage occasioned by the negligent mis-statements (of the defendants) ... on or about 18 May 1994 in a Withdrawal Notice to the SFA."

The case is complicated by the fact that UBS has recently merged with its Swiss rival

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK



SBC. Also, Mr Sants has left UBS and is set to join Wall Street investment bank Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette in September to run their international equities business.

THIS MORNING the High Court in London will begin hearing an action concerning Express Newspapers' alleged misuse of a pension fund surplus and withholding of pension increases from its older pensioners. The case has taken over seven years to come to court.

Ronald Cowell, 75, an electrician who retired in 1986 after 22 years service with the Express, has complained that his pension has not been increased since his retirement. In fact it has fallen by a third in real terms, he says. An exception was a one-off increase of 3 per cent paid in 1997 - after the action had started. Another discretionary 3 per cent increase is going through this year.

When he retired Mr Cowell was a member of the Express Pension Fund for Production and Clerical workers. In 1988 funds were taken from this fund and three others to form the current Express Newspapers Pension Scheme. These funds included a surplus that was calculated by reference to all members of the scheme, including Mr Cowell.

In the case of the Production and Clerical Fund this transferred surplus amounted to £27m.

Much of this surplus was then used to provide improved benefits for the then current employees of the Express. These employees were granted 3 per cent per annum increases on their pensions. Similar benefits were given to those employees being made

redundant in the company's 1987 manpower reduction programme.

Whilst some one-off increases of £12 per week were granted to some long-standing pensioners, those who had been made redundant in 1989 were singled out to receive nothing, according to Mr Cowell's solicitor, Giles Orton of Eversheds.

Since 1988 Mr Cowell has seen his pension eaten away by inflation, whilst Express Newspapers has been able to use the surplus to reduce its own contributions to the scheme, according to Mr Orton.

Mr Cowell complained to the trustees that under the rules adopted in 1988 all members of the new scheme should be entitled to 3 per cent increases. The trustees did not agree, but accepted that the position was sufficiently unclear that they should refer the matter to the court. The trustees are therefore funding the present action.

Express Newspapers is arguing that the rules do not provide for 3 per cent increases and that if they do this was a mistake and should be corrected ("rectified") by the court.

IN BRIEF

PowerGen in East Midlands talks

POWERGEN HAS held exploratory talks with US utility Dominion Resources about buying East Midlands Electricity, the regional electricity group. Talks are believed to be at an early stage and PowerGen has yet to make a firm offer. Ed Wallis, the electricity generator's chairman, has made no secret of his desire to expand into electricity distribution. However, any move towards vertical integration in the UK's electricity industry would have to be cleared by the government and Ofwat, the industry regulator. PowerGen is also understood to be negotiating with Houston Industries, the US generator, about a merger which would create a transatlantic power giant. In 1996, Dominion paid £1.3bn for East Midlands.

Asda starts telephone shopping

ASDA, THE supermarket group, will announce a new telephone ordering service this week which will enable customers to order their goods from a central warehouse. The "call and collect" service will offer groceries and clothes as well as CDs, videos and books, which will then be delivered to customers' homes. "Other supermarkets have offered this service but only on a local level, which restricts the customers to products that are available at the back of the local store," an Asda spokeswoman said. "But a central warehouse will give customers a wider choice we will be able to offer the full range of products that we stock nationwide."

Asda is looking for an 80,000 sq ft warehouse to service the whole of the M25 area. "We are really going on the offensive here, and looking to gain market share in an area that traditionally has always been seen as one of our weak spots," the company said.

Yellow Pages in US link

YELLOW PAGES, the directory supplier owned by British Telecommunications, will today announce a strategic alliance with Equifax, the US transaction processing group, as part of a push to develop marketing and electronic commerce in the UK. Among others, Yellow Pages plans to combine its business database with Equifax's information on directors and financial performance to allow users to work out the profitability of their customer databases. John Condron, Yellow Pages' managing director, said the partnership would also develop opportunities in electronic commerce and other markets.

Nasdaq looks at German alliance

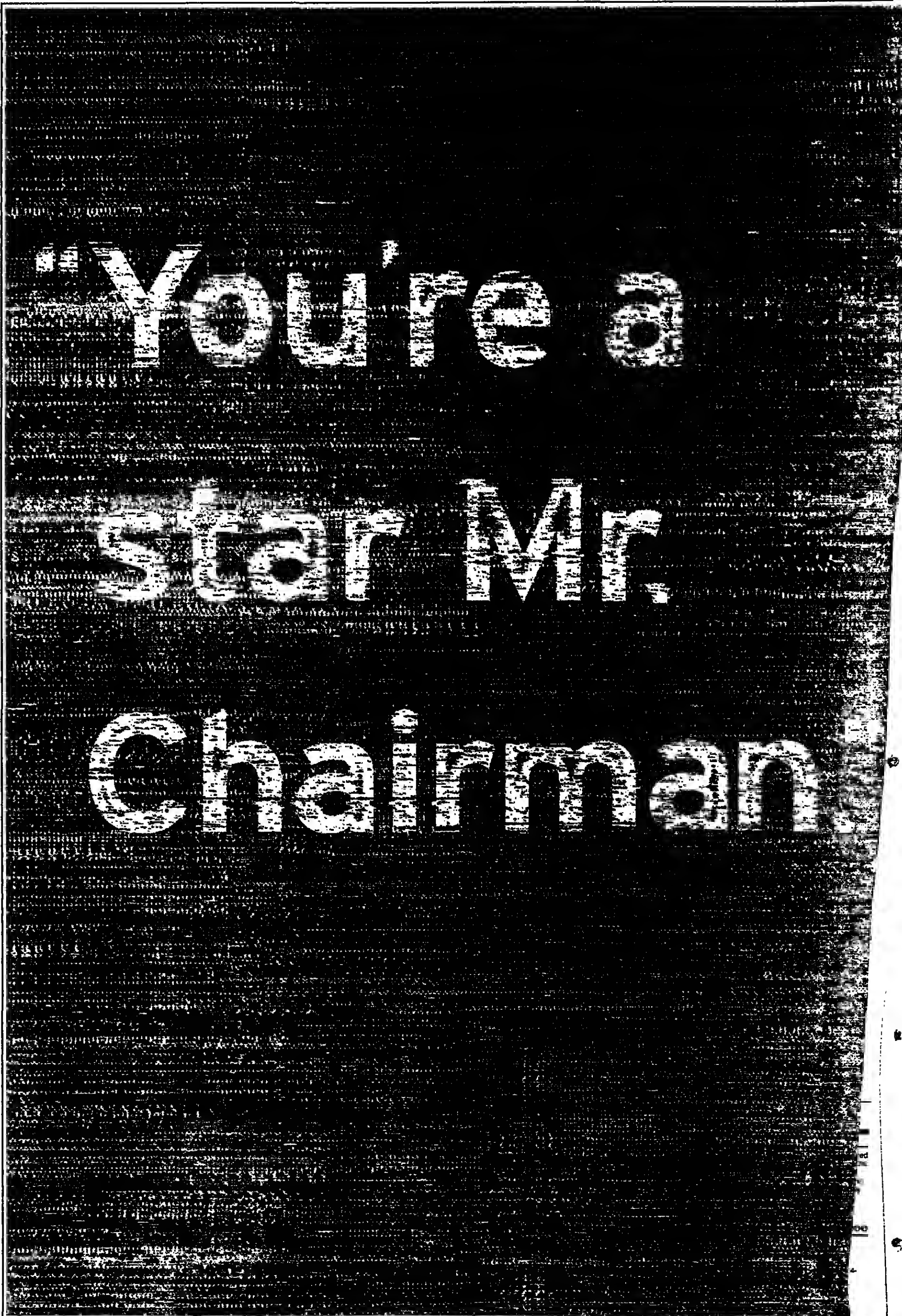
NASDAQ, THE US stock market, has held talks with Deutsche Bourse, which runs the stock and derivatives markets in Frankfurt about a possible alliance that could lead to a challenge to London stock markets. Nasdaq would not confirm that talks had taken place but said: "We are always talking with a wide range of possible commercial partners." Nasdaq is already trying to raise its profile in Europe. It is currently running a television advertising campaign in Britain and will start one in Germany this week. Some market commentators feel that, in time, global companies will want to list on one international market rather than have a series of domestic listings.

Merger is dead, says Leschly

JAN LESCHLY, SmithKline Beecham's chief executive has ruled out any revival of the merger talks with British drugs rival Glaxo Wellcome which ended acrimoniously earlier this year. "It is not going to happen," he said over the weekend. He also denied rumours that he was negotiating his retirement from the firm. Both rumours had been active over the last week. "People should just forget about it [the merger]. It is dead and it is about time Glaxo figured it out."

New editor at 'Lloyd's List'

LLP GROUP, the publishing group which came to the market in April, has appointed Leigh Smith as editor of its flagship publication, Lloyd's List. Mr Smith takes over from Michael Gray, who is moving on to edit other LLP publications after completing a two-year period at the helm of the shipping and insurance industry daily.



Governing South Africa: Six weeks of currency speculation pose problems for the ANC and its alliance partners

Rand under new pressure

BY JONATHAN ROSENTHAL
in Johannesburg

IN TODAY'S South Africa even the "tannies" are taking to the streets. The tannie, or auntie, was the backbone of loyalty to the old South Africa and the National Party. At party gatherings tannies could be counted on to serve the food, embroider the party flag and send home-baked cakes to the boys patrolling apartheid's borders and harassing people in its townships.

But last week the tannies were on the march, dancing and chanting the slogans of South Africa's revolution. On the country's television sets, under a poster reading "Loyalty doesn't buy bread," were hundreds of civil servants demanding that the government honour its 1996 pledge to increase public service salaries. But the novelty of watching Na-

tional Party die-hards protesting against an ever-tightening fiscal policy was lost on the country as it battled its way through a sixth successive week of speculative assaults on the currency.

Last week the rand fell 5.5 per cent to its lowest levels ever against the dollar and pound. Although the rand has fallen only 11 per cent against the dollar this year, the latest crisis has shaken the government and central bank far more than its previous dive in early 1996 when it fell 26 per cent in a few weeks.

When the government presented its growth, employment and redistribution strategy, it openly called it Thatcherite and told its election partners, the country's largest trade union federation and the Communist Party, that the policy was non-negotiable. The programme's targets promised to take the sting out of

slashed government spending by generating thousands of jobs a year by the end of the century, lowering inflation and putting the economy on track for a 6-per-cent growth rate.

The plan worked. The rand stabilised, inflation was reined in to about 5 per cent, its lowest level since the 1970s, and the government's economic growth target of 6 per cent by the end of the century seemed achievable. But that mad scramble to save the rand in the autumn of 1996 prepared the ground for the assault on the rand that followed two years later.

The African National Congress (ANC) government's non-negotiable stance on an economic policy that was soon perceived as a self-imposed structural adjustment programme meant that it failed to win the support of its alliance partners.

Thabo Mbeki, the deputy presi-

dent and heir to Nelson Mandela, last month defended the slow pace of privatisation, saying he had been advised by Margaret Thatcher, not to move too fast. The body-blow to Mr Mbeki's deliberate pace came at the end of May with the first attack on the rand that threatened to drive it below R5 to the dollar.

The government and central

bank fell back on the tactics that saved the rand in 1996, but this time their confidence dwindled in the few days it took for them almost to exhaust the country's foreign reserves.

In less than a month the central bank threw about half its total foreign reserves, more than R26bn (£2.8bn), into the breach to little avail. Punitive central bank interest rates

soared as high as 30 per cent as the bank tried to mop up liquidity in the domestic money market and prevent speculators from borrowing rands to fund their attacks on the currency.

Econometrix, an economics consultancy, said last week that the currency crisis was likely to push inflation back up, in spite of interest rates that are 15 per cent ahead of

Workers like these vineyard employees near Capetown face rising inflation as the rand comes under speculative assault
Jodi Bieber



The higher interest rates have forced them to cut their economic growth projections for this year by two-thirds to 1 per cent. Growth is expected to limp up to 2 per cent next year, a third of the government's planned 6 per cent.

Chris Stals, the governor of the central bank, last week threw up his hands in an admission of the bank's impotence in the face of currency speculators. "The present financial crisis is of course not a South African crisis but a global one," Mr Stals told the Johannesburg business community. "Had the roots of the problem been in the South African economy, it would have been easier to prescribe remedial action and apply appropriate policies that could guide the situation back to stability."

That explanation is unlikely to sit well with the marching tannies of Cape Town or the ANC's partners less than a year before the country's second democratic elections.

Jonathan Rosenthal is Industrial Editor of the South African newspaper *Business Report*, part of the *Independent Newspapers* group.

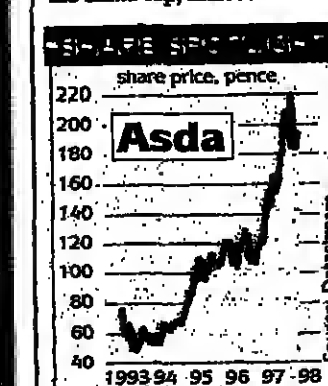
AIM's £6.7bn success story continues

THREE YEARS ago the Alternative Investment Market was born with just ten constituents. Today it has more than 300, with a combined capitalisation of £5.7bn. AIM has experienced some difficult times, even feeling the need to tighten its regulatory regime. But for a young market specialising in accommodating the smaller, perhaps less disciplined, companies, it has been an outstanding success and is still attracting a steady flow of recruits.

AIM has come in for criticism from some quarters, in particular the advancing cost of membership, often above £600,000 as increased regulation takes its toll, and the apparent failure of its shares to join the bull run.

But the FTSE AIM index rather understates the market's performance, because shares elevated to full listing drop out of the calculation, thereby robbing the index of its star performers.

However in the three months to 12 June the AIM index enjoyed something of a boom. At a time when the mid and small cap indices were out-running Footsie, AIM beat such stock market measurements as the all-share, fledgling and, indeed the small cap, indices.



But the seepage of constituents is a continuous process. Dawson Holdings, the newspaper and magazine distributor, has just moved to a full listing. An AIM founder, its shares moved from 49p to a 255p peak, ending last week at 176p.

A survey conducted by accountants Pannell Kerr Forster indicates most of the AIM chairmen and chief executives are quite happy with their lot. But 49 per cent felt AIM's image had declined in the past year, primarily due to problem companies, increased investor caution, removal of some tax reliefs and lack of liquidity.

The liquidity problem could be easing, with a handful of stockbrokers starting market making in smaller companies. Durlacher & Co., Raphael Zorn Hemsley and Williams de Broe are aiming to make markets. There is talk that other firms are ready to clamour on the jobbing bandwagon.

In the PKF survey 85 per cent said Aim had exceeded their expectations.

Best known of the AIM companies reporting this week is Majestic Wine, the expanding 70-strong wine warehouse chain, which arrived 18 months ago at 160p; the shares ended last week at 500p. Bill Myers at stockbroker Williams de Broe

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

expects a champagne profits display of around £3m, up from £1.9m.

The retail reporting theme is continued by the major groups on the schedule. Asda, recently voted the top performing superstore chain, is expected to hit £400m against £353.7m. It is probably the most flirtatious Footsie constituent, having in recent times looked at moving into motorway services, merging with Kingfisher and taking over rivals Safeway.

The stock market is not entirely convinced the Kingfisher deal, or indeed the Safeway one, are completely dead and buried. Asda certainly looks like a company in need of a big deal, and in their respective ways, Kingfisher and Safeway make sense. Worries that Asda may indulge in a substantial acquisition which requires a heavy share issue has helped pull the shares from their peak.

Another retailer which has managed to get some recent corporate deals under its belt is the new-look Great Universal Stores.

Under chairman Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, the once-reticent group has raided its famous cash pile and put through a series of deals; the last and probably most spectacular was the fiercely contested £1.9bn takeover of Argos, the catalogue stores chain.

That acquisition will not make any contribution to the GUS figures due to be presented this week. They will not be impressive, with the market looking for a little changed out turn of £570m.

Carpetright may not have a particularly happy tale to relate. Its shares have been under intense pressure, falling from 573.5p last Autumn to 316p on Friday.

John Richards at BT Alex Brown is looking for £35m but believes the Easter washout experienced by most retailers could mean his estimate is £2m too high. Last year Carpetright made £32.1m.

Upmarket department store group Harvey Nichols should have recorded the sort of progress which would impress the smart set. Around £14m is on the cards, up from £12.1m.

Interim figures from Watson & Philip, the convenience shops chain, complete the retail roll-out. Some £2m (£6.7m) is expected.

First Leisure, still striving to sell its Blackpool operations such as the famous tower, should show benefits from its reshaping and is set for a 33 per cent interim jump to £22m.

SPORT

هكذا من الأصل

Wimbledon '98: The All England Club prepares for the arrival of two American sisters with a sense of destiny

Williams sisters' double trouble

MAKING A serious face and shaking her beaded hair 16-year-old Serena Williams declared, "Two days of rain at Wimbledon, and I'm out of there!" The statement made her mother laugh heartily. "She's telling everybody that. She told me that she would actually do it. I don't think so. She loves to compete too well."

Oracene "Brandi" Williams finds amusement in her family's eccentricities and the public's reaction, which is probably just as well considering that her husband has a habit of referring to himself in the third person as "King Richard".

At the same time there is a deep underlying seriousness about the Williamses, a sense of purpose and destiny which took them out of a gang-ridden Los Angeles ghetto and has enabled them to gain a prominent position in the traditionally elitist realm of tennis for two of their five daughters, Venus, 18, and Serena.

Both have the potential to emulate the greatest African-American players, Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe. Martina Hingis, the Wimbledon champion, who is three months younger than Venus, rates her tall, spectacular rival as "No 2 in the world". At the Lipton Championships in Florida, where Hingis saved two match points against the strong, compact Serena and was then defeated by Venus, the Swiss world No 1 said, "It's difficult to play the Williams family two matches in a row."

"Venus, Serena, and their father, predict that playing against them will become so hard that Venus and Serena will be No 1 and No 2 in the world, though not necessarily in that order. Richard Williams went so far as to tell *Tennis Week's* Paul Fein that, "Hingis's legs are too short to go the distance with both of the girls right now, so Hingis won't get in their way, no kind of way. In a sense, it's exactly like a heavyweight fighting a middleweight when Venus plays Hingis. I don't see anyone standing in Venus's way or Serena's way. It's going to boil down to those two girls."

"King Richard" publishes a newsletter chronicling the family's background and its progress, and offering advice on the virtues of education, family, religion (they are Jehovah's Witnesses), and community service, "helping parents stop prostituting their

apartment the family are renting in Wimbledon. She gets by with the aid of a cast and a stick. "I'm a mother, I'm a wife, I'm a coach, and then at home I have so many other activities, because I take care of the finances. It can become kind of difficult and overwhelming, especially on a long trip like this. When I go back home and get the mail, I have to go through it all and do the filing, and I'm trying to learn to use the computer better. But I manage, and sometimes I get help from my older daughters." Yalunde, the oldest, is the mother of two who also manages to run a business. Isha is an aspiring lawyer, and Lyndrea is a computer planner.

Oracene was a nurse from 1985 to 1991. "I worked in hospitals and also did home care. I liked home care better, because my hours were my own and I could also go on the court with the girls. We were able to arrange things so Richard was able to teach the girls as well as run a security business. When we first

moved to Florida [in 1991] we had difficulty with the schools letting the girls go part-time, so they had a year of home schooling. After that they went to regular school."

It was only when the family moved to Florida that Oracene discovered that she had been suffering from pneumonia. "I always got sick at weekends, when I didn't have to work. I don't think I've fully recovered, but I'm handling it much better now."

Having shielded Venus and Serena from the customary course of junior competitions - "We did not want them to burn out real early" - the Williamses decided they needed help when the girls joined the professional tour. At which point, Oracene gave up nursing, laced up the pinnosols, and headed for the circuit.

"My husband wanted to do it, but I told him he could not handle all of it, and in the end he found that I was right. Because we had put so much work into the girls, and time, I didn't want anyone to come in from outside and take credit for something that Richard had done."

Richard Williams's planning is executed in phases, Oracene supervising the work on the practice court, assisted by the ubiquitous Nick Bollettieri, whose Florida tennis academy helped launch Andre Agassi, Jim Courier, Monica Seles and Anna Kournikova.

"It was time for Venus to be moulded gradually into the tennis world," Oracene said. "It's like a job. You have to be trained. And with Serena being with Venus on tour, she was getting her internship at the same time. That made it possible for Serena to play more tournaments, because the way had been pathed by Venus. And that's why there's a discrepancy between Venus and Serena. The older child would lead the way for the younger. If the younger one is paying attention, they can learn from the older one's mistakes."

Serena learned so quickly that the regular practice matches were transformed into full-blown sibling rivalry at the Australian Open in January and at the Italian Open in May. So far, Serena has been unable to produce her best when confronted by her sister, and such occasions must be sheer agony for a mother at the court-side.

"Well, it doesn't affect me at all," Oracene said, "because the two are one. As a family, you are a unit. So whether one wins and one loses, that's the way it goes. Either way, the love is still there, and love is the most common bond, more than the game. So it doesn't destroy relationships."

Dealing with post-match interviews can be an ordeal for some players, but Venus and Serena quickly developed a technique embracing the measured and the flippant. "Well, that's part of the training, too," Oracene said. "We decided they would have experience with the media very young. They would attend charity events in which both of them would have to get up and speak publicly, so it gave them a familiarity with the public at large."

Richard Williams was an enthusiastic tennis player before he and Oracene met. "Richard taught me, and I practised very hard. I didn't want to be a hacker, I wanted to learn it well." Her ambition was to play with the concentration of Bjorn Borg, no less.

JOHN ROBERTS

While Richard Williams is the architect of the family's fortunes, he does not spend a great deal of time at tournaments, partly, Oracene explained, "because he said he didn't want to be a fan in the stand, watching to and fro." Nor is he particularly fond of flying. "He told me he's coming to Wimbledon. I'll believe it when I see it."

Even when he is at the court-side, there is no outward sign that mentally he is playing every shot with his daughters, which is the case with some tennis parents. "No, because they had a pretty well-grounded education in tennis," Oracene said. "All of us did, because we were out on that court every day. We would get up at 5.30 on the morning, that is me and my husband, and come back at noon, and then go back again. And I never thought about that till recently. I must have been crazy. But I just did it."

It generally falls to Oracene to accompany Venus and Serena around the world, a role which has become increasingly demanding and was not helped by her fracturing her left ankle in a fall down steps at the



Oracene Williams: Wife, mother, coach



Mirror image: Serena (left) and Venus Williams enjoy a close relationship despite their on-court rivalry Chris Cole/Empics

"Any athlete, when they're playing their game, they're in what I guess they call now 'The Zone'. You don't hear anything outside. I have to make sure with Venus sometimes. 'Do you hear the phones ringing?' If she tells me she doesn't hear them, that means she's been concentrating on what she's doing. You block everything else out."

While single-mindedness on the court is essential, Oracene almost winces at the thought that her daughters are within touching distance of the major trophies. "I think too much success too soon is not good, I really do. I want to take it easy. They're too young. You know, people in normal careers, they may not bloom until there 30s or 40s. So it's no big rush."

Venus has already played in the final of the United States Open, losing to Hingis, so does it worry Oracene that her daughters appear to be getting ahead of themselves? "Sometimes. I don't want it to happen too fast because of the problems that come with it. If it happens, I want them to be able to handle it, because people expect so much of you. We try to ingrain in them to expect more from themselves than anyone. Whatever others' expectations are, they have to be their own person, knowing who they are and having the confidence, and the self-esteem, and the courage, to stand up for who they are and what they know."

Hingis seems well-balanced in spite of astonishing early success. "I admire her relationship with her

mom," Oracene said. "That's good, because she's young and she needs that, and she should keep that. We don't want to see any kids going away. And I tell the girls that I admire that, because she appears to listen to her mother, and that's good. Obedience is good, and when you're obedient good things happen to you. And that seems exactly what she's doing, and she is getting good results from it."

Oracene senses that before long Venus and Serena will be ready to go their own way. "I'm beginning to know now. I'm beginning to see more maturity from Venus on the court. When she started playing one of her matches in Rome, I wasn't around, I couldn't be there. When I arrived she had won the first

set and was on her way to the second. So that was the beginning."

"As a parent, I have to let go. I learned that a long time ago from my mother, when they were little. When they get to an age, they'll probably have to take care of themselves and they'll have to go on their own. And they have to learn that, too."

Oracene has plans of her own when the time comes for Venus and Serena to travel independently. "I'd like to buy a property in Africa. It's been one of my ambitions to visit there since I was a little girl. I hope to go this year or next year and have a look around. I'd like to build a house there and I'd like to work with children. Maybe teach tennis. As I told the girls, I'm going to take my life back."

Can Sampras beat the curse?

DOES THE "Curse of Black Butt" - a place Pete Sampras probably has never heard of - have him enmeshed in its tentacles? It should become clearer as the latest edition of the Big W unfolds and a seemingly vulnerable Sampras, pressing not to fold as he did in Melbourne and Paris, guns for his fifth championship.

Pete wouldn't be the first great to come off-so-close to overtaking that favourite son of dusty, forgettable Black Butt in the Queensland bush. Roy Emerson... but then blink from Roy Emerson... it happened to the scene occurred. Rod Laver, another Queenslander, Rod Laver, and the Swede, Bjorn Borg, and maybe to Sampras's countrymen, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe, Aussie John Newcombe and the Czech, Ivan Lendl as well, who had every reason to believe that they could surpass the male record of 12 major singles titles accumulated between 1961 and 1967 by "Emmo". As a lean, gregarious Aussie

Bud Collins on the strange world that produced Roy Emerson, holder of the 31-year-old Grand Slam singles record

refugee from a dairy farm outside of Black Butt (named for a local tree), Emerson divided his dazzling dozen like this: two each US (1961, 1964), Wimbledon (1964, 1965), and French (1963, 1967), plus six Australian (from 1961 to 1967). Sampras is at 10 - and counting? Or cursing? Borg and Laver stopped at 11, Connors and Lendl at eight, Newcombe at seven, McEnroe at six.

"I don't know how it lasted this long, 31 years," says Emerson, a 61-year-old teaching pro domiciled in Miami and currently conducting a summer of seminars in Switzerland, at the Palace Hotel at Gstaad. Emerson, whose hair has gone from patent leather black to buckskin white, laughs often and disclaims any part in the "Curse". But Turin has its shroud and Black Butt has its proud memories of the

days Emmo was No. 1, and his ring-leading of eight Davis Cup triumphs made their country also supreme.

In Black Butt, with its two-man police force and 2,000 inhabitants, the present No. 1, Sampras, is considered Pete the Stalker. He's trying to wipe out their guy from the record book, a worse crime in those parts than wombat rustling or diluting the beer.

"Oh, I don't mind seeing Sampras get beat. We like having the record here," says Kevin Allery, a 70-year-old Black Butt native and Nanangashire councillor.

Frequent, boisterous laughter punctuates Emerson's discussion of the record. "I didn't even know there was such a record - or that I had it - until last summer when Pete got to 10 by winning Wimbledon. Then people started writing about

it. But nobody was record-conscious in my day. I guess I broke Tilden's record, but I wasn't aware of it at the time. There was no mention."

Correct. American Big Bill Tilden, with seven US and three Wimbledon titles between 1920 and 1930, was the first man to hit double digits in the majors. Another American, Helen Wills Moody, preceded him and had 13 of her 19 by 1930.

Tilden, dead 14 years, fell to Emerson in early 1967 as Roy beat Arthur Ashe at the Australian for No. 11. Four months later he beat teammate Tony Roche to again win the French, that deep mystery for Sampras.

"Looking back," Emerson says, "I can't imagine how Laver didn't top me. He had 11 after his 1969 Grand Slam. Or Borg after he won his sixth French in 1961 to go with his five Wimbledon."

The "Curse"? "But Pete will do it, and I'm cheering for him. A great player and a great sportsman. Plenty of time. He's only 26. I was 30 when I won my last."

Emerson had "no intention of setting a record." Sampras, who has set his heart on it, is the better player, with fiery serve, huge forehand, greater variety. But Emmo, a 2ft-11-plus long jumper as a schoolboy and daring volleyer, may have been the better athlete. Certainly he was the more complete, holding the doubles record too, 16 majors.

Strengthening those volley-punching wrists "by milking thousands of cows as a kid", Emerson is nonetheless bullish on his stalker. "Pete plays a beautiful game, and is a good role model for kids. More power to him," he says.

Emmo's mate, Allery, remembers: "Wonderful family, the Emersons. You could tell young Roy had the goods. We'd go over to the court on their farm to play weekends. Home-built, red antebellum court. Common in the country. Knock over those ant or termite hills that look like fire plugs, spread it out and roll. Played like a gritty clay court. Nothing left of the court but a few posts." Hallowed timber. He ought to



Wimbledon winners: Pete Sampras (left) and Roy Emerson

send a piece to the International Tennis Hall of Fame at Newport, Rhode Island, where Emerson was enshrined in 1982, and put up a plaque at the two bitumen town courts on Hart Street saying: ROY EMERSON PLAYED HERE!

Sampras - "surprising myself, I didn't know what I was doing" - became a major threat at 19, winning the US of 1990. By 1993 he got serious by seizing Wimbledon, starting

a string of nine victories in 17 major starts.

But failure in the last three has made Black Butt burghers bubbly. If Pete the Stalker flops this time at SW19, "Curse" theorists may be dancing in Coulson Street, the town's main thoroughfare.

"I don't think so," cautions Allery. "We don't dance in the street." Maybe the kangaroos, koalas and emus get in the way.

20/WIMBLEDON

Rusedski challenge depends on fitness

BY JOHN ROBERTS



REGULAR READERS of these pages with long memories might recall that in January your correspondent tipped Greg Rusedski to win Wimbledon as a postscript to a preview of the year's tennis. There was no escape clause, but the British No 1's damaged left ankle warrants a drastic revision of the prediction.

Rusedski, the fourth seed, declared himself fit to play yesterday, and his first-round match has been scheduled for tomorrow against Mark Draper, an Australian qualifier ranked No 287 in the world (not to be confused with his younger brother, Scott, the winner at Queen's).

So where does that leave the intrepid pundits? Even if Rusedski's ankle holds firm, will he still have sufficient confidence and stamina for a campaign demanding seven victories over the best of five sets? Or will doubts erode his customary single-minded approach and leave him stranded short of the quarter-final place he achieved a year ago?

For Rusedski to be a viable contender for an honour denied to British representatives for 62 years, he needs to be sharper than at any time in his career, able to synchronise a mighty serve with crisp volleys, potent returns and punishing groundstrokes. He needs to be everything Richard Krajicek was when the Dutchman won the title in 1996.

As for the slice of luck all potential champions need along the way, Rusedski's seemed to disappear the moment his ankle turned as he ran to play a volley during the Stella Artois Championships 10 days ago. All in all, it would appear prudent to back Rusedski another year.

A less than 100 per cent Rusedski would leave Tim Henman as

Britain's lone ranger as far as a serious challenge is concerned. Although the 23-year-old from Oxford advanced to the quarter-finals in each of the past two years, his recent form suggests he will do well to match that, let alone stretch himself over two further hurdles to ultimate glory.

Henman's opening match against the Czech Jiri Novak, scheduled third on Court No 1 today, might possibly coincide with live television coverage of England's World Cup match against Romania in Toulouse. The order of play committee decided it was only fair to allow Novak time to arrive after competing in the final of a clay-court Challenger tournament in Zagreb yesterday.

Rusedski is not the only player whose preparation has been hindered by injury. Krajicek has a sore left knee. Anna Kournikova is nursing a bruised right thumb, and although Martina Hingis was hitting the ball with gusto on the practice courts yesterday, the 17-year-old defending women's singles champion has experienced twinges in her right wrist.

Kournikova, who damaged her thumb in a fall towards the end of an impressive win against Steffi Graf at Eastbourne last Thursday, continues to have treatment. In common with Hingis, the 17-year-old is not due to play until tomorrow.

Hingis first experienced pain in the wrist shortly before the French Open, taking the precaution of practising left-handed on two days in the lead-up to Paris. Acupuncture relieved the problem, but it recurred after playing basketball following a few days' inactivity. Hingis began practising at Wimbledon last Friday, and was smiling, as usual, yesterday.

When it became clear that Steffi Graf was succeeding in her race against time and aching limbs, Hingis was asked how the other play-

ers would react to having to play the seven-times champion on her favourite courts.

The Swiss world No 1 recounted that she was drawn against Graf on her first two visits to the All England Club after graduating from the juniors. On both occasions, Graf won in straight sets on the Centre Court, in the first round in 1995 and in the fourth round in 1996.

"When I was told that I had been drawn to play Steffi Graf in my first-ever match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, and I knew about it the Tuesday before the tournament start-

ed, I didn't want to go," Hingis said. "That's what it's like to be drawn against Steffi Graf at Wimbledon."

On this occasion, Hingis and Graf can only meet in the final. Hingis, the No 1 seed, is drawn in the same half as two of her teenage rivals, Venus Williams and Kournikova and two frustrated former finalists of a certain age, Jana Novotna and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Novotna was in splendid form in winning the Direct Line Insurance Championship at Eastbourne, defeating Sanchez Vicario in the final and not losing a set all week. It was

astonishing to realise that this was the Czech serve and volleyer's first triumph in a grass-court tournament. Her Wimbledon prospects have soared, but doubts concerning the strength of her nerve on the big occasion persist.

Graf was on the verge of petulance over some of the line calls during her match against Kournikova at Eastbourne, but at least her mind was on something other than injuries. She is projected to exchange forehands with Mary Pierce in the fourth round and play her old foe Monica Seles in the quarter-finals.

If Graf is able to warm to her task free of pain in the early rounds, she is capable of building sufficient momentum to go all the way to an eighth title and leave Wimbledon with more cherished memories.

The very notion of a Brit winning the men's title shows just how open the event might be, particularly since Pete Sampras, the four-times champion, has not been his usual dominating self so far this year. Petr Korda, Pat Rafter, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and dear old Goran Ivanisevic are queuing up for the master's crown. As with Graf, however, Sam-

pras's experience and class may tell. Andre Agassi, back in contention after working hard to convince that he means business, made an interesting point about Sampras. "He's proven too much to me for me to think for one second that he's going to let things slip," the 1992 champion said. "He has no business to have no confidence. The guy's a great player. He can turn it on at the right time."

"If he doesn't post well at Wimbledon, then I'll say, 'OK, something's a little off with him'. But the guy can go right back to Wimbledon and, hands down, win it."

Steffi Graf clutches the Wimbledon trophy after her last singles title triumph in 1996

Kevin Lamarque/Reuters

THE TOP EIGHT MEN AND WOMEN SEEDS

BY JOHN ROBERTS

1 PETE SAMPRAS

Born: Washington DC 12 August, 1971. Home: Orlando, Florida. Height: 6ft 11in. Weight: 12st 2lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £20.25m. Wimbledon record: 1st rd (1993), 1, 2, SF, W, W, OF, W. The great one's motivation has been called into question of late, but he regards the lawns as a second home. Another disappointing French Open on the slow clay of Paris will be forgotten as he puts his mind to winning a fifth Wimbledon title, which would extend his Grand Slam total to 11.

2 MARCELO RIOS

Born: Santiago, Chile, 26 December, 1975. Home: Santiago. Height: 5ft 9in. Weight: 10st. Plays: Left-handed. Winnings: £2.65m. Wimbledon record: 1st rd (1995). - 4. Came closest to eliminating Sampras last year, pushing the world No 1 to a fifth set in the fourth round. The talented Chilean subsequently defeated Sampras in five sets in the fourth round at the US Open and scissor-kicked his way to glory at the Australian Open. Has the pedigree and experience.

3 PETR KORDA

Born: Prague, Czechoslovakia, 23 January, 1972. Home: Monte Carlo and Florida. Height: 6ft 3in. Weight: 11st 6lb. Plays: Left-handed. Winnings: £6.16m. Wimbledon record: 3rd rd (1998). - 1, 1, 2, 4, 2, 4, 4. Came closest to eliminating Sampras last year, pushing the world No 1 to a fifth set in the fourth round. The talented Czech subsequently defeated Sampras in five sets in the fourth round at the US Open and scissor-kicked his way to glory at the Australian Open. Has the pedigree and experience.

4 GREG RUSEDSKI

Born: Montreal, Canada, 6 September, 1973. Home: London. Height: 6ft 4in. Weight: 13st 8lb. Plays: Left-handed. Winnings: £1.99m. Wimbledon record: 1st rd (1993). 2, 4, 2, OF. But for an ankle injury would have been fancied to become Britain's first men's singles champion since Fred Perry in 1936. He has the game: provided the serve is consistent and the return is working; and the determination, but lack of practice and concern about the injury might impair his confidence.

5 CARLOS MOYA

Born: Palma, Mallorca, 27 August, 1976. Home: Barcelona. Height: 6ft 3in. Weight: 12st 5lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £1.85m. Wimbledon record: 1st rd (1996). 2. Won the French Open as the No 12 seed, defeating a Spanish compatriot, Alex Corretja. In the final, he showed in advancing to the final of the 1997 Australian Open. Success on grass would be major surprise.

6 PAT RAFTER

Born: Mount Isa, Queensland, Australia, 28 December, 1972. Home: Pembroke, Bermuda. Height: 6ft 11in. Weight: 12st 7lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £3.053m. Wimbledon record: 3rd rd (1993). 2, 1, 4, 4. The popular Australian appears to have gone into under-drive since the US Open last September. Has been unable to lift his game so far this year, but is the type who could play his way into form and light up the tournament.

7 YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV

Born: Sochi, Russia, 18 February, 1974. Home: Sochi. Height: 6ft 3in. Weight: 12st 7lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £6.29m. Wimbledon record: 3rd rd (1994). OF 1, 4. Has spoken confidently about his prospects since winning the grass-court tournament in Halle, Germany. Has been drawn against the big-serving Australian Mark Philippoussis in the first round, which is the sort of match calculated to give the victor heart for a stirring campaign.

8 CEDRIC PIOLINE

Born: Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, 15 June, 1969. Home: Paris. Height: 6ft 2in. Weight: 12st 7lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £4.53m. Wimbledon record: 2nd rd (1991). 2, OF 1, OF 4, F. Swears by his grass-court preparation, but was disqualified for resting an arm on a netting last week. One of the sport's bridesmaids, he has been a beaten finalist in 12 tournaments. Was runner-up to Sampras at Wimbledon last year and also the 1993 US Open. May run out of steam.

1 MARTINA HINGIS

Born: Kosice, Slovakia, 30 September, 1980. Home: Trubach, Switzerland. Height: 5ft 7in. Weight: 9st 2lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £59m. Wimbledon record: 1st rd (1993), 4, W. The youngest champion since Lottie Dod in 1887, Hingis arrives, as last year, after the disappointment of defeat at the French Open. On this occasion the semi-finals will be played in the semi-finals by Monica Seles. Otherwise, Hingis has dominated the major championships. Now Graf is a factor.

2 LINDSAY DAVENPORT

Born: Palos Verdes, California, 8 June, 1976. Home: Newport Beach, California. Height: 5ft 2 1/2in. Weight: 11st 10lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £2.77m. Wimbledon record: 3rd rd (1993). OF 4, 2, 2. One of the most powerful players, she has worked hard on her fitness and mobility. Projected to meet Graf or Seles in the semi-finals, the diminutive South African, who has beaten in their past five matches. May reach the last four.

3 JANA NOVOTNA

Born: Brno, Czechoslovakia, 2 October, 1968. Home: Antwerp, Belgium. Height: 5ft 9in. Weight: 9st 9lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £5.46m. Wimbledon record: 1st rd (1998). 4, 2, 4, OF 2, 3, F, OF, SF, OF, F. One of the grass-court stylists, but the nearest she has been to the crown is the Duchess of Kent's shoulder. Lost her nerve and double-faulted on game point for 5-1 in the final set against Graf in the 1993 final, and could not capitalise after winning the first set against Hingis in last year's final. Time is running short.

4 STEFFI GRAF

Born: Brühl, Germany, 14 June, 1969. Home: Brühl, and Boca Raton, Florida. Height: 5ft 5in. Weight: 9st 4lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £12.58m. Wimbledon record: 4th rd (1984), 4, - 1, F, W, SF, W, W, W, 1, W, W, - 4. Will she confound her rivals, young and not so young, by winning an eighth title after being out of the game for the best part of a year? Has shown encouraging fitness and form in the few matches she has been able to play in preparation, and is not here just to wave to the well-wishers.

5 ARANTXA SANCHEZ VICARIO

Born: Barcelona, 18 December, 1971. Home: Andorra. Height: 5ft 6in. Weight: 8st 8lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £8.4m. Wimbledon record: 1st rd (1987). 1, OF 1, OF 2, 4, 4, F, F, SF. Few would bet against the Spanish retiree battling through to contest a third final with Graf, particularly as she arrives fresh from winning the French championship. Her most memorable match at the All England Club was the defeat in 1995, when she and Graf fought for 20 minutes over one game with the Spaniard serving at one set all and 5-5.

6 MONICA SELES

Born: Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, 2 December, 1973. Home: Sarasota, Florida. Height: 5ft 10in. Weight: 10st 9lb. Plays: Left-handed (two-handed backhanded). Winnings: £7.30m. Wimbledon record: 4th rd (1989). OF - 1, F, - 2, 3. Can look forward to a rousing reception for her first match against Maria Sanchez Vicario. Has shown immense resolve in rebuilding her career after being stabbed in Hamburg in 1993. Advancing to the French Open final two weeks ago, but has yet to fulfil her potential here.

7 VENUS WILLIAMS

Born: Lynwood, California, 17 June, 1980. Home: Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Height: 6ft 1 1/2in. Weight: 12st. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £4.65m. Wimbledon record: 2nd rd (1992). SF, W, SF, 4, 3. Pretends she is making her debut and that last year's first-round defeat by Poland's Magdalena Gryboska did not happen. Certainly looked a beginner on grass at Eastbourne last week. Has the height and power, and has improved all round since losing to Hingis in the US Open final last year.

8 CONCHITA MARTINEZ

Born: Monzon, Spain, 16 April, 1972. Home: Barcelona, and San Diego, California. Height: 5ft 7in. Weight: 9st 4lb. Plays: Right-handed. Winnings: £4.65m. Wimbledon record: 2nd rd (1992). SF, W, SF, 4, 3. Beaten in the third round last year by Helena Sukova, but is nicely placed to cause some damage this time. Whether we can recapture the form which brought her the title in 1994, denying the great Navratilova with breathtaking cross-court groundstrokes, is open to doubt.

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY AT WIMBLEDON

2.0pm start on Centre Court and Court One; 12.0 on others

Seeded players in capitals

COURT ONE: P. SAMPRAS (US) v D. HAAS (GER); M. PIERCE (FR) v S. GRAP (GER); M. PHILIPPOUSSIS (AUS) v Y. KAFELNIKOV (RUS)

COURT TWO: A. CALABROVA (SLO) v A. AGASSI (US); M. SELES (US) v M. SANCHEZ VICARIO (ESP); T. HENMAN (GB) v J. NOVAK (CZE)

COURT THREE: P. KORDA (CZE) v J. SANCHEZ (SLO); F. LUBAT (ARG) v J. EMPORT (US); G. KURTES (BRA) v J. FOSTERBERG (AUS); L. GOLARSI (ITA) v S. WILLIAMS (US)

COURT FOUR: D. BRACCIALI (ITA) v M. LEE (GB); J. GAMBILL (US) v S. SCHALKER (NEH); Y. NISHIDA (JPN) v E. UCHIKAWA (RUS)

COURT FIVE: M. VENTO (VEN) v S. CADIC (US); D. BRACCIALI (ITA) v M. LEE (GB); J. GAMBILL (US) v S. SCHALKER (NEH); Y. NISHIDA (JPN) v E. UCHIKAWA (RUS)

COURT SIX: S. CAMPBELL (US) v F. DEWULF (BEL); A. GERS (CZE) v A. CARLSON (SWE); B. RITNER (GER) v A. COCHETEAU (FR)

COURT SEVEN: M. VENTO (VEN) v S. CADIC (US); D. BRACCIALI (ITA) v M. LEE (GB); J. GAMBILL (US) v S. SCHALKER (NEH); Y. NISHIDA (JPN) v E. UCHIKAWA (RUS)

COURT EIGHT: T. HAAS (GER) v R. DELGADO (PAR); M. TILSTROM (SWE) v A. RADULESCU (GER); T. SUNDY (US) v M. NEMETSKOVA (CZE); P. HY-BOLAIS (CAN) v M. BABEL (GER)

COURT NINE: S. PITKOWSKI (FR) v L. NEILLAND (LAT); A. O'BRIEN (US) v K. CARLSON (CAN); S. LARSEN (CAN) v R. ROMBERG (GER)

COURT TEN: N. SAWAMATSU (JPN) v B. PAULUS (AUT); D. WHEATON (US) v N. ESCUDE (F); C. MORRIS (US) v M. MARUSKA (AUT)

COURT ELEVEN: K. BOGGERS (NEH) v M. SAEKI (JPN); FANG LI (CHN) v R. GRANDE (ITA); S. NOORLANDER (NEH) v O. LUGINA (UKR); N. DECHRY (FR) v A. MILLER (US)

COURT TWELVE: T. KETOLA (FIN) v D. NAMKIN (SA); A. SUGIYAMA (JPN) v S. PILSCHKE (AUT); T. NYDAHL (SWE) v H. GUMY (ARG)

COURT THIRTEEN: M. PETCHAY (GB) v M. GUSTAFSSON (SWE); M. PIERCE (FR) v E. JATARKOVA (UKR); J. BLAZA (SLO) v M. CHANG (TPE); L. MOKEL (CZE) v J. HABSUDOVA (SLO)

COURT FOURTEEN: H. NAGYOVA (SLO) v A. FRATER (US); B. BLACK (ZIM) v R. FROMBERG (AUS); K. ALAMI (MEX) v B. MACPHERSON (US); J. LEE (US) v L. WOODCOCK (GB)

COURT FIFTEEN: R. VASEK (CZE) v O. GROSS (GER); G. NIELSEN (US) v C. RUBIN (US); T. TANASUGARN (THAI) v K. HRDICKOVA (CZE)

COURT SIXTEEN: P. HAARHUIS (NEH) v J. TANGU (US); C. MARTINEZ (SLO) v F. VASINA (ITA); A. CORRETTA (SLO) v J. GIMESTON (AUS); K. ALAMI (MEX) v B. MACPHERSON (US)

COURT SEVENTEEN: M. NAGY (JPN) v J. PUTIN (UKR); A. FUSAL (F) v S. SUDENKOWA (SLO); L. PERRETTO (ITA) v D. CHADKOVA (CZE)

COURT EIGHTEEN: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT NINETEEN: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT TWENTY: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT TWENTY-ONE: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT TWENTY-TWO: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT TWENTY-THREE: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT TWENTY-FOUR: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT TWENTY-FIVE: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT TWENTY-SIX: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT TWENTY-SEVEN: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT TWENTY-EIGHT: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT TWENTY-NINE: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

COURT THIRTY: L. ARMOLD (ARG) v B. ULICKOVA (CZE)

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هذا من الاصل

The home challenge: Britain's No 2 embarks confidently on quest to return the family silver to its rightful place

Henman unfazed by expectation

BY JOHN ROBERTS

IT WAS Douglas Hurd, having switched from politics to the financial markets, who coined "Wimbledonisation," a metaphor for the City's creation of beautiful conditions in which foreign players (banks and securities houses) can come to this country and win.

The mega-rich tennis players from overseas are lined up for another killing at the All England Club, and good luck to them. Loss of prize-money hurts less than loss of face as we dream wistfully of seeing a Brit's name engraved on the family silver.

Greg Rusedski's ankle injury may have taken the edge off his chances of a realistic shot at the title over the next fortnight. Tim Henman, on the other hand, is not inclined to shy away from a positive view of his prospects.

"Can the expectancy get any greater?" the 23-year-old from Oxford said with a laugh, acknowledging that his two successive appearances in the quarter-finals had primed the public.

"I definitely believe I can go further than the quarter-finals, and if I could win one tournament it would definitely be Wimbledon. But also I understand that if I go out there and have a bad day and not play well, I could lose to a lot of people in the draw. And that's what you have to be aware of. But I feel that I've got a pretty good chance, perhaps as good a chance as most."

So tennis is coming home? "I definitely believe that one day I could win Wimbledon. But having said that, when I look at my game and the way I'm developing, I'd still say it's another two or three years before I'll be playing my best tennis, where I've reached my peak. So when other people start talking about winning Wimbledon this year, I think I've got a good chance, but I think also it's fair to say that in a couple more years I'll have an even better chance."

The American Todd Martin halted Henman in 1996, and Germany's Michael Stich proved too adept and experienced for him last year, when the 1991 champion bade farewell to the sport after losing to Cedric Pioline in the semi-final.

"On both occasions I had good opportunities," Henman recounted. "In the first one I actually played pretty well against Todd Martin. And that was a typical grass court match. But to play Stich, to play Cedric Pioline, while very tough matches, I think both were matches I feasibly could have won."

The notion that British players have an advantage on grass tends to be misleading. "My advantage is that I've played on grass since I was 11 or 12, and it suits my style of serving and volleying, as you know," Henman conceded, "but I play on it four weeks a year, and that's it. We probably don't have quite as much of an advantage as people think."

Some visiting players consider that the more they play on grass, the



Tim Henman: 'I definitely believe I can go further than the quarter-finals, and if I could win one tournament it would definitely be Wimbledon'

David Ashdown

worse they get. "I think after four weeks on grass you're volleying pretty good," Henman said. "But you miss a lot of returns and miss a lot of passing shots over that time, and you don't actually hit many balls. On grass you can practise for an hour and barely break sweat, because of the nature of the points."

Given home advantage and confidence in his grass-court game, Henman is aware that so much else can go awry. "You'd have to ask Pete [Sampras], but to win a Slam - and he's done it 10 times - I think it's fair to say you need an element of luck. You need a few things to go your way. This is something that comes into it. So if it doesn't happen this year, then I've still got plenty more opportunities."

The same applies to Rusedski. "With his serve on grass, I think a lot of people will say he's got as good a chance as anyone, because it is so difficult to return them."

Having done what he can to sharpen his game, is the No 12 seed prepared for the latest bout of Henmania? "Wimbledon is always going to be a chaotic time, it's always going to be the greatest focus of attention. But that's just something you have to learn to deal with. It's just the nature of the tournament. It's my nationality. And people are going to be wanting to know what I'm up to. But I've always realised that it goes with the territory, so I haven't had a problem with it. You want to just concentrate on your tennis and you hope that it doesn't interfere with what you're trying to do."

Step by step, Henman is rounding out as a personality. "My perspective and my expectations of myself, I think, are increasing all the time. Most importantly, I don't think I've changed fundamentally as a person, and that's where I think I'm lucky with the people that I have around me."

"It's been evident that David [David Felgate, his coach] has had quite a lot of criticism this year, but at the end of the day it's what I want [that matters]. That is the way of the press. They're always going to want something to write about, and there are going to be times when they pick on other areas. But David and I are just happy to get on with what we're doing."

"At first, when I had a lot of things written about me, at Wimbledon '96, I tried not to read what had been written. It's obviously difficult to avoid when you're on the front page of every newspaper, but I think now I'm becoming less and less aware of it. I can understand now that it's not worth worrying about. At the end of the day I don't really care what other people want to say or think, because for me it's only worth listening to those people that I respect and those people who I think have an input into what I'm doing."

"I think David had to understand that and learn that maybe quicker than he expected, because I think that was the first time he really came under fire. What I find a little bit surprising when I look back over that period where I was having a tough time, is that I was the one who was putting in some really poor performances, and he was the one getting the blame. David's there to help me, but I'm the one who goes out there and hits the big serves, makes the volleys and hits the passing shots, and I'm also the one that serves the double-faults and chooses the wrong shots. He helps me, but I do the winning and also I do the losing."

"It's about getting me ready. I may have made tiny adjustments, but I haven't changed my game for years. Its all about preparing me so that I'm ready every time I step on the court, and for sure David knows me better than anyone in that regard. We've worked together for maybe six years

now. We understand each other pretty well. It's a relationship that's worked very well. Why change something that's working? It's a pretty large jigsaw puzzle, and I've definitely got all the pieces there. Its just a question of learning how to use them in the right way and putting them all together. I'm doing that, but it's going to take time. There are times when I can be a little impatient, but I know that when I think I'm going to be a very good player."

If we are to experience another case of "Wimbledonisation," who are likely to be the major players? "I'm sure Pete will be the favourite, but I think [Pat] Rafter and [Petr] Korda - I don't think [Marcelo] Rios is going to me such a force at Wimbledon - but I think there you've got some pretty capable players."

Korda, 30, appears to have put everything into winning the Australian Open in January. "I think

when it all came together for him in Melbourne he was definitely playing as good as anyone, but one of his problems is that he can be a little bit inconsistent."

Rafter, who defeated Rusedski in the final of the United States Open last September, has suffered motivational problems. "I think at the moment Pat is struggling a little bit more than people might have expected. He's not playing quite as well as he did at the end of last year, but I think the surface is always going to help a player of his style."

Does Andre Agassi pose a threat? "I think this year he's shown to people that his comeback's for real. On grass he's surprised a lot of people with his style - serving and staying back some of the time and dominating more with his returns. I think with him the weather plays a big part. If it's dry, the courts get hard, the ball bounces a little bit higher, that's when he could be dangerous."

Novotna in title-winning form

JANA NOVOTNA, so close to being a Wimbledon winner in 1993 and 1997, has proved she is in the right form to make it this time lucky.

Lack of experience, Novotna believes, cost her the title five years ago when she developed stage fright and threw away a third-set lead to lose to Steffi Graf. Injury took its toll last year. The personable Czech pulled an abdominal muscle in the semi-finals and struggled to reach the final where she lost in three sets to Martina Hingis.

"To win Wimbledon you need to be lucky, you have to be healthy and you have to play well," said the 29-year-old.

Novotna before the start of her latest Wimbledon campaign today.

All three factors came together when Novotna won the Eastbourne tournament on Saturday - her first grass-court final win in 12 years of professional tennis.

The world No 3 looked fighting fit as she delighted the Eastbourne crowd with a master class in grass-court tennis to defeat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-1, 7-5.

Novotna's deft touch at the net, her energetic running and intelligent game reminded the crowd that grass demands a finesse which is too often lack-

ing in the modern game where slugging it out from the baseline has become the norm.

In the last five years Novotna has never lost before the quarter-finals at Wimbledon. Last year's injury occurred as she played the first point of her semi-final against Sanchez Vicario.

"It was pretty bad," Novotna said. "It went through my mind what would happen if I had to default the final." She did get through the final, losing 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 to Hingis, but was then forced to take six weeks off for the injury to heal. Since then the muscle has given her trouble on several other occasions and

Novotna wears an abdominal support on court. Her unorthodox serving action, which sees her arch her spine to an awkward angle, does not help. "Sometimes I do wish that I had a much easier serve but what can I do?" she asked.

Seeded third at the All England Club this week, Novotna is in Hingis's half of the draw and meets fellow Czech Sandra Kleinova in the first round. Teenagers Anna Kournikova and Venus Williams are both in her section but Novotna refused to be drawn on their prospects.

Graf, she believes, will be dangerous in her comeback to Wimbledon after the seven-

times champion missed last year's event through injury.

"She was playing extremely well, she was moving well," Novotna said. "She definitely will be a threat."

Hingis became the youngest Wimbledon champion in the Open era when she won last year at the age of 16 years, nine months and five days but Novotna believes youth will not prevail this time.

"Experience at Wimbledon will play a major role," she said. "I think to win Wimbledon you need to get into the final once or twice first."

Just like Jana Novotna has done, in fact.

Bjorkman at his best Rafter primed by fourth career title

SWEDEN'S JONAS BJORKMAN gave himself the ideal warm-up for Wimbledon on Saturday, winning the Nottingham Open title by defeating Zimbabwe's Byron Black in straight sets.

The world No 9 beat Black 6-3, 6-2 to gain revenge for his defeat when the pair met in the third round at Queen's last week.

The pair had both won semi-finals indoors earlier in the afternoon, but a break in the weather allowed them to contest the final outside.

Bjorkman, the second seed, never allowed Black to settle, starting out with some high serves and breaking his opponent, the world No 40, in the third game of the first set.

The Swede then broke Black again after a stunning return of serve to take the first set.

He looked set to run away with the contest in the second when he took his first service game to love and then broke Black immediately. But the Zimbabwean rallied and, aided by a Bjorkman double-fault, broke back to trail 2-1.

Bjorkman came back to break again in the sixth game and then comfortably eased to a deserved victory.

"The last time I beat him [Black] was in Australia this year," Bjorkman said. "I was really serving well there and that's what I did today."

The Swedish No 1 said he was delighted to be running into form just ahead of Wimbledon.

"I'm feeling very strong at the moment," he added. "I feel like I'm getting back my self-confidence, so it will be a different Jonas Bjorkman at Wimbledon."

Bjorkman, a semi-finalist at the US Open last year where he lost to Greg Rusedski, has struggled on grass at the All England Club, losing in the first rounds the last two years - and going out in the second in 1995.

Black said he was disappointed not to have rounded off the week by winning the Nottingham title, especially as he had beaten Bjorkman last week.

"I guess he wanted me after that," Black said. "He was serving really well and returning really well and he gave me no chance."

PATRICK RAFTER issued a Wimbledon warning that his game was back in order after beating Czech Martin Damm in straight sets to win the Heineken Trophy in Rosmalen yesterday.

The Australian top seed, has recently been struggling to rediscover last year's form, which saw him rise to No 2 in the world rankings. But in the Netherlands he picked up his fourth career title with a 7-6, 6-2 victory.

Rafter, now ranked No 6, said he needed the win to build up some self-esteem before Wimbledon and added, "If I were a betting man, I would put money on Pete [Sampras]. He is still awesome."

In searing heat, both players held their serve in the first set,

but Damm seemed to lose his concentration at the start of the tie-break when the umpire called wide a smash which appeared to hit the line.

Rafter, who won last year's US Open, went on to win the tie-break 7-2.

Damm, ranked 85 in the world, failed to recover from the ruling, and then managed to drop his opening service game of the second set to give Rafter the advantage. The Australian broke Damm again in the seventh game to seal the match.

Damm, who hurt his right shoulder during the French Open, said the injury was again troubling him. "But I don't want to blame my loss on the injury, I lost to a great guy on grass," Damm said.

WIMBLEDON ROLL OF HONOUR	
Men	Women
1997 P Sampras (US) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-4 6-2 6-4	1997 M Hingis (Swit) bt J Novotna (Cz Rep) 2-6 6-3 6-3
1996 R Krajick (Neth) bt M Washington (US) 6-3 6-4 6-3	1996 S Graf (Ger) bt A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 6-3 7-5
1995 Sampras bt B Becker (Ger) 6-7 6-2 6-4 6-2	1995 Graf bt Sanchez Vicario 4-6 6-1 7-5
1994 Sampras bt G Ivanisevic (Croa) 7-6 7-6 6-0	1994 C Martinez (Sp) bt M Navratilova (US) 6-4 3-6 6-3
1993 Sampras bt J Courier (US) 7-6 7-6 3-6 6-3	1993 Graf bt Novotna 7-6 1-6 6-4
1992 A Agassi (US) bt Novotna 6-7 6-4 6-4 1-6 6-4	1992 Graf by M Seles (Ung) 6-2 6-1
1991 M Stich (Ger) bt Becker 6-4 7-6 6-4	1991 Graf bt G Sabatini (Arg) 6-4 3-6 6-6
1990 S Edberg (Swe) bt Becker 6-2 6-2 3-6 3-6 6-4	1990 Navratilova bt Z Garrison Jackson (US) 6-4 6-1
1989 Becker bt Edberg 6-0 7-6 6-4	1989 Graf bt Navratilova 5-7 6-2 6-1
1988 Edberg bt Becker 4-6 7-6 6-4 6-2	1988 Graf bt Navratilova 5-7 6-2 6-1
1987 P Cash (Aus) bt I Lendl (Cz) 7-6 6-2 7-5	1987 Navratilova bt Graf 7-5 6-3

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BY DEREK PRINGLE
at Lord's

South Africa 360 & 16-0
England 110 & 264
South Africa win by 10 wickets

THIS TIME there was no miracle as there had been in Johannesburg three winters ago, for Lord's is rarely kind to its own. Instead, it was the visitors, South Africa, who, by playing the more knowing and necessary cricket, made short of the longest day, winning the second Cornhill Test by 10 wickets, to go 1-0 up in the series.

Only the customary mirage, this time thrown up by some late heroics from Nasser Hussain, who scored his seventh Test century, and a fighting half-century from England's captain, Alec Stewart, prevented the innings from being a rout. Mind you, after the home side's abysmal collapse for 110 on Saturday, at the hands of Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock, cricketing realism would have seen it as a minor triumph that England, following on 250 runs behind, made South Africa bat again.

Yet we live in times of unreal expectations and England's collapse after lunch, when they lost six wickets for 11 runs in under an hour, was atrocious, and most of the middle-order batted with less spine than your average invertebrate.

Indeed, against what was essentially the support bowling of Lance Klusener and Jacques Kallis, whose spell of four for three in 25 balls contributed to his best ever Test figures, it was an acceptably poor performance. The odd head will surely roll before the next Test at Old Trafford.

"Obviously we're disappointed, but full credit to South Africa," the England captain, Alec Stewart, said afterwards. "We had the better of the Edgbaston Test, but they've outdone us here. It's not all doom and gloom. We've got good players, as we showed at Edgbaston."

"There are three matches left. We have to try to win all three, or at least two of the three. We know we are capable of beating them and we look forward to evening things up at Old Trafford."

Since their return to the international arena, resilience has been something of a South African specialty, a quality England mostly appear to lack. South Africa nearly always manage to turn un-

promising situations on their head. A classy new ball attack helps, but so does their attention to fielding, which helps to lift and bind a team as it confronts its foe.

"We knew it would be difficult on days one and two," Hansie Cronje, South Africa's captain said. "But we felt that if we could get a reasonable score we could put England under pressure. With Jonty batting so well that he made me look like an inexperienced amateur, we were able to do that."

In truth there is rarely a moment when England are not under the cosh these days, though when the fourth day began there was none of the cloud cover that had helped contribute to their rout in the first innings, when the ball had swung and seemed appreciably.

In fact the only thing hanging over England, who resumed on 106-2, was the impending punishment about to be handed to Mark Ramprakash, for the dissent he showed in England's first innings, when umpire Darrell Hair gave him out caught behind off his elbow.

Needling to bat at least until lunch today, the episode did not begin auspiciously when Dean Headley, the nightwatchman, was out to the 12th ball of the morning, prodding a simple pad-bat catch to silly point off Paul Adams.

Bowling from the Nursery End, and extracting a considerable amount of turn, as well as some inconsistent bounce, Adams looked like he might finish England off quickly. Certainly England needed luck against him and Klusener. Both Stewart, on 17, and Hussain, on 67, were dropped, after the latter had survived an lbw appeal against the left-arm spinner that looked stone dead.

Until South Africa took the second new ball Hussain and Stewart ground away like fastidious apothecaries, using pestles and mortars. Hussain in particular owed his team a score, following his appalling flat-footed scythe in the first innings, and it took an effort of immense fortitude for him to deliver.

With hardness of the new ball restoring Stewart to the role of quasi-opener, runs were suddenly added at an alarming rate. 40 of them coming in just six overs. In some ways the spree showed England what they are missing by employing him in the middle-order, and for a brief moment either



Mark Ramprakash and Darrell Hair at Lord's yesterday. Ramprakash was fined for showing dissent after the umpire gave him out on Saturday. Peter Jay

side of lunch, after Hussain had reached his hundred and Stewart had passed fifty, England looked capable of saving the match.

But as is so often the case in belting collapses that involve England, the catalyst - as it was in Antigua a few months ago, when a careless run-out caused seven wickets to fall for 26 runs - was out of all proportion to the damage caused.

On this occasion it was Stewart, pushing forward to a Kallis outswinger, who was given out caught behind. The TV replay showed he was unlucky, as was Graham Thorpe, who having survived an appeal for caught behind - a brilliant decision as the ball actually shaved his stumps - was then given out lbw to a ball that pitched well outside leg stump.

In the first ball of the next over, Hussain's six and a half hour stay was ended with another contentious decision, the batsman probably just getting his pad outside the line of off-stump to Robert Croft and Angus Fraser ensured South Africa would bat again, though the inconvenience was brief, Daryll Cullinan opening in place of Adam Bache, who had

earlier injured his shoulder diving to prevent a boundary.

Needling 15 to wrap up victory, they duly won off the first ball of the second over. With almost a day and a session to spare, few can deny the advance in their cricket since Edgbaston. If a similar improvement is made over the next fortnight, England are likely to face another fallow summer.

Three overs later Nasser Hussain played half forward to Lance Klusener with his bat behind his pad. The ball hit the pad first and then the bat as it came through. It looked a good decision from Mr Hair but Hussain waited longer than he should have done.

Allan Donald was just as guilty as the Englishmen when George Sharp refused to give Hussain out, caught off bat and pad at short leg in his last over before lunch. The replay showed what a good decision it was and yet Donald spun round with disbelief and covered his face with his hands.

It is a dreadful reflection on contemporary cricketers that they refused to accept the umpire's word or in their dissenting agreement, try and make the umpire look foolish. It is also a damaging reflection on those who orchestrate the side from the dressing-room.

If match referees do not become a good deal tougher over their reaction to dissent it will soon descend to open warfare in the middle.

At the end of this match Mr Burki has said that he wants to meet with the captains and the managers before the third Test next week at Old Trafford. I very much hope he will not mince his words. Some of the behaviour at Lord's has been disgraceful.

LORD'S SCOREBOARD

England won toss

SOUTH AFRICA - First innings 360 (110 Rhodes 117, W J Cronje 81; D G Croft 6-119).

ENGLAND - First innings 110 (A A Donald 5-32).

Second innings (Saturday, 102 for 2)

M A Atherton c Kallis b Adams 44 197 min, 142 balls, 7 fours

S P James c Kallis b Pollock 10 13 min, 7 balls

N Hussain lbw b Klusener 105 330 min, 294 balls, 17 fours

D W Headley c Cronje b Adams 1 27 min, 30 balls

G P Thorpe lbw b Kallis 56 161 min, 117 balls, 7 fours

M R Ramprakash b Klusener 0 12 min, 9 balls

M A Ealham b Kallis 4 38 min, 21 balls

O G Cork c Boucher b Kallis 2 18 min, 17 balls

R O B Croft not out 16 61 min, 41 balls, 1 four

A R C Fraser c Pollock b Adams 17 46 min, 42 balls, 1 four

Extras (b) 10 (w) 10 (total 20)

Total (480 runs, 120 overs) 264

Falls: 1-8 (James) 2-102 (Atherton) 3-106 (Headley) 4-222 (Stewart) 5-224 (Thorpe) 6-244 (Hussain) 7-235 (Ramprakash) 8-228 (Cork) 9-233 (Ealham) 10-264 (Fraser)

Bowling: Donald 24-6-83-0 (nb2 w2) (4-2-16-0, 5-2-11-0, 6-1-8-0, 7-1-39-0, 8-0-0-0); Pollock 27-6-29-1 (nb2) (6-4-1, 5-4-1-0, 2-2-0-0, 4-2-5-0, 7-2-17-0, 3-2-2-0); Klusener 23-5-24-2 (5-1-0-0, 7-0-0-0, 5-1-10-0, 6-1-10-2); Kallis 19-9-24-4 (3-2-8-0, 3-2-3-0, 13-5-13-4); Adams 23-7-62-8 (1-0-4-0, 7-1-12-1, 13-3-35-1, 2-0-11-1); Cronje 4-2-4-0 (one spot).

Progress: Third day: tea: 47-1 (Atherton 26, Hussain 15) 19 overs, 548-85 min, 18-4 overs, 1005-136 min, 48-3 overs.

Closes: 105-2 (Hussain 52, Headley 1) 54 overs. Fourth day: 150: 304 min, 77-1 overs. New ball taken after 60 overs at 160-3. 200: 340 min, 85-5 overs. Lunch: 200-3 (Hussain 97, Stewart 43) 86 overs, 250: 472 min, 116-3 overs. Innings closed 4.09pm.

South Africa's 50s: 181 min, 147 balls, 9 fours. 100: 325 min, 260 balls, 17 fours. Stewart's 50s: 131 min, 94 balls, 7 fours.

South Africa - Second innings

G Kirsten not out 9 6 min, 4 balls, 2 fours

D J Cullinan not out 3 6 min, 4 balls, 1 four

Extras (nb1) 1

Total (6 min, 1-1 overs) 15

Bowling: Fraser 1-0-10-0; Croft 0-1-0-0 (5-0 m5).

Progress: South Africa won by 10 wickets at 4.36pm.

Man of the match: J N Rhodes.

Umpires: O B Hair and G Sharp.

TV Replay Umpires: B Oudsten.

Match Referee: Javed Burki.

Suspended ban for Ramprakash

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

MARK RAMPRAKASH yesterday became the first English cricketer to be handed a one-match ban for dissent after being found guilty of dissent in the second Cornhill Test at Lord's.

The Middlesex captain's punishment has been suspended for six months after match referee Javed Burki ruled that his "dissent was both physical and verbal".

It happened in England's first innings, after Ramprakash was given out, caught behind, by umpire Darrell Hair. Television replays later showed that the ball from Allan Donald had clipped the batsman's elbow rather than the inside edge of his bat.

Mr Hair's report was considered by referee Burki and, at a hearing at the close of the third day's play, Ramprakash was additionally fined 25 per cent of his match fee of around £3,400, i.e. about £850.

The punishment is not unique in world cricket. The International Cricket Council has acted similarly in more than half a dozen cases over the last four years. But if Ramprakash was guilty - he stood his ground for quite a while before heading for the dressing-room and clearly on the way back must have said something as well - he should not have been alone. There could have been a veritable shoal of dissenting players, including his captain Alec Stewart.

"We are disappointed for Mark," intoned Stewart, picking his way through a verbal minefield since ICC regulations prohibit anyone from making any kind of comment about disciplinary decisions. "But he has been dealt with by the match referee." Ramprakash was told of his punishment before went out to bat in the second innings, when he went for a four-ball duck. He had wanted the news withheld until his innings was over.

There was the suspicion that the punishment had weighed too heavily on him and had, perhaps, had a bearing on his second-innings performance. But Stewart said: "It must have been on his mind, but I don't think you could blame any-

thing that happened last night or this morning on what happened to him."

Stewart, who projects the right sort of image for the game in this country, according to England and Wales Cricket Board chairman, Lord MacLaurin, made it very plain that he was unhappy about being given out, caught behind for 56, when he and Nasser Hussain were compiling what threatened to be a face-saving partnership. Stewart left the square shaking his head, and even stopped to see if there was a replay of his dismissal on the screen at the Nursery End. Later he said: "Whenever an umpire gives me out, that's when I go."

But dissent is not confined to batsmen. Donald's histrionics,

in his final over before lunch, when he thought he had Hussain caught at forward short leg, were certainly worthy of punishment. What the actions of these two have prompted is a meeting with Mr Burki before the Old Trafford Test, specifically to discuss what is and is not expected of players in these situations. These meetings usually take place with the captains and the coaches, but the Manchester get-together will include both managements.

As for the England collapse Stewart, clearly unhappy, admitted: "On this occasion we were badly beaten. They took the game away from us in their first innings and then rolled us over for 110. We were never in it after that."

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Smith hits out to tame Derbyshire

THE HAMPSHIRE captain, Robin Smith, hit an unbeaten 88 as his team easily overcame Derbyshire's challenge by seven wickets at Basingstoke in the AXA League yesterday, with more than two overs to spare.

Smith hit nine boundaries to follow the century scored against the same opponents in the County Championship match which Hampshire also won yesterday.

Veteran pace bowler Cardigan Connor took three early wickets as Derbyshire slumped to 57 for 5, a position from which they never recovered.

They owed the respectability of their 160 for 9 to their acting captain, Kim Barnett, who finished 52 not out.

Connor finished with 3 for 27 and Derbyshire's total never troubled Hampshire despite the early loss of their opening batsman John Stephenson.

Smith featured in three important partnerships, first with Giles White and Paul Whitaker, then with Dimitri Mascarenhas.

Sussex fail to last the pace

By John Collis

ALTHOUGH THE term 'pinch hitter' was inaccurately borrowed from baseball it has now established its cricketing meaning, and few players pinch their hits better than Warwickshire's Neil Smith. Not for him the languid elegance of classical correctness - he trades in brutal but effective short-arm jabs.

In partnership with his skipper Brian Lara he put on 126 in 21 overs, creating the platform for a potentially daunting total.

Surrey 146 & 254-1 dec Lancashire 151-7 dec & 250-4 Lancashire won by 6 wickets

ALEX TUDOR, the Surrey pace bowler, conceded a world record 38 runs in one over yesterday as Lancashire swept to victory in the County Championship match at Old Trafford.

Tudor's former England under-19 team-mate, Andy Flintoff, did the damage in an amazing innings - including 34 runs off the bat in that one over - which took Lancashire to a six-wicket win and fifth

place in the county table over the leaders.

Flintoff hammered 61 off 24 balls, with five sixes and seven fours, as Lancashire raced to a victory target of 250 in 53 overs with almost nine overs to spare.

He hit 34 in the over from Tudor, but the paceman also bowled two no-balls which cost two extra runs apiece, making 36 - a total unmatched in first class cricket.

Only Gary Sobers and Ravi Shastri have scored more runs in a single over than Flintoff, both hitting six sixes.

Flintoff hit the first ball for six, then four consecutive fours, before dispatching the sixth and seventh for further sixes. Poor Tudor managed to a bowl a dot ball on his eighth and final delivery of the over.

Earlier, Nadeem Shahid had hit an unbeaten 126 and Ian Ward 61 against declaration bowling as Surrey made 254 for 1 before skipper Adam Hollands set Lancashire their target.

But John Crawley gave them the perfect start with 78 off 80 balls including two sixes and four fours, while opener Nathan Wood also played an invaluable role in Lancashire's second consecutive championship victory, ending unbeaten on 80.

INSET RUNS SCORED OFF ONE OVER: 36 G S Sobers off M A Nash, Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan at Swanssea, 1968 (six sixes).

36 R J Shastri off Tikar Rai, Bombay v Baroda at Bombay, 1994-95 (six sixes).

34 A Flintoff off A Judd, Lancashire v Surrey at Old Trafford, 1998 (6-4-4-4-6-6, including two no-balls).

34 E B Allen off E H Killeck, Nottingham v Sussex at Hove, 1911 (4-6-6-6-6-6, including two no-balls).

34 F C Hayes off M A Nash, Lancashire v Glamorgan at Swanssea, 1977 (6-4-6-6-6-6).

32 I T Botham off I R Snook, England v Central Districts at Palmerston North, 1989-90 (4-6-6-6-6-6).

32 J R Shastri off Tikar Rai, Bombay v Baroda at Bombay, 1994-95 (six sixes).

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32 I T Botham off I R Snook, England v Central Districts at Palmerston North, 1989-90 (4-6-6-6-6-6).

Red Devils give way to red faces in the heat

Belgium
Wilmots 43, 48
Mexico
Garcia Aspe pen 56, Blanco 63
Att 34.75

BELGIUM (4-4-2): De Witte (Anderlecht); Delfaere (Club Brugge); Simelone (Club Brugge); Vierendeels (Anderlecht); Belducq (Club Brugge); Van der Elzen (Club Brugge); De Maessene (Club Brugge); De Goffa (Anderlecht); Boffin (Molokai); Ollebergh (Pierikette); Nilles (PSV Eindhoven); Sabbe (Sint-Truiden); Werheijne (Club Brugge) for Boffin; 18: De Boeck (Anderlecht) for Nilles; 77: De Ruyt; 1: Belpaese (Standard Liege) for Van, 77.

MEXICO (4-3-3): Campos (UNAM); Suarez (Guadalajara); J Sanchez (Guadalajara); Davino (America); Pardo (Atlas); Ramirez (Guadalajara); Garcia Aspe (America); Ordiales (Toluca); Blane (Necaxa); Hernandez (Necaxa); Palencia (Cruz Azul); Substitutes: Arreola (Guadalajara) for Campos; Hernandez (America) for Ordiales; 58: Lara (America) for Garcia Aspe; 68.

Peru 9: D. Rojas (Sport).

In particular, the discomfort of Aron Winter in the unfamiliar right-back position will have been noted by their potential second-phase

[illegible][illegible]

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Recalling the worst moment of my career

IT IS vital that the destroyers in the England team, players like Paul Ince and David Batty, retain their discipline against Romania tonight. Staying calm and disciplined is vital at this level of the game. I speak from bitter experience, having suffered my blackest day in football at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico when I was sent off in England's second game against Morocco.

It was a hazing hot day in Monterrey, something like 105 degrees, and I was getting a trifle warm. We had lost Bryan Robson 10 minutes before with a dislocated shoulder, and the team as a whole were feeling the pressure of both our opening game defeat against Portugal and a lacklustre start against the



RAY WILKINS

African side. I had been booked earlier for a mistimed tackle and, when we launched a break upfield, I was pulled up for offside, which I felt was rather harsh.

Frustration boiling over, I threw the ball into the ground and it bounced up and hit the referee, who then showed me a second yellow card and ordered me off the field. It is often recalled that I threw the ball direct at the ref, but I assure you that, if that had been my intent, I'd have made sure I hit a different part of his anatomy.

I had a wonderful playing career and I wouldn't change any of it, but that was a bad moment for me. It was a dreadful feeling to have to trudge off the field knowing I had become one of the few players to be dismissed playing for England, the only time in fact that I had been shown the red card in all my career.

It made it so much worse that England had lost two captains in

the space of 10 minutes. I received a two-match ban from Fifa and, although I was named as substitute against Argentina in the quarter-final, it was to be the end of my World Cup. It was not a nice memory to take away, but these things happen.

In this competition I have been thrilled by what we have seen in the early games, but it worries me now, with more and more crackdowns by officials, that teams are not going to be so willing to adopt a positive approach. An inevitable result of all these red cards, for challenges that are nothing more than mistimed, is that defenders will hold back from tackling and teams will make sure they have plenty of bodies back behind the ball. The games

will become tight affairs and the spectacle will be reduced.

What is Fifa looking for? After all, football is supposed to be a contact sport. They were right to put the emphasis on the dangerous tackle in advance of the tournament, because it put defenders on their guard and warned them to be careful when making a challenge for the ball. That was noticeable from the early games as defenders stood up and went about their jobs correctly.

Now we have a situation where the Saudi Arabian player was sent off against France when he didn't deserve to be, the tackle just didn't warrant it at all, although I have to say that Zinedine Zidane deserved his red card in the same game.

There is no place for stamping or raking studs down an opponent's back and he deserved to go. Now the referees have been placed under even more pressure - and we have seen what happens.

I am surprised that Michel Platini, a player of such world renown, should be behind this latest offensive. To my mind it cannot help this tournament, or the game at large. Football, played as the game should be played, is a glorious entertainment and does not need these rule changes.

My other concern about tonight's match in Toulouse is that the Romanians are a very skilful side and will need a lot of watching. They won their qualifying section at a stroll and boast players of good

technical ability. They can pick you apart if you allow them the room.

We can beat anybody on our day but we can take nothing for granted because Romania will be full of confidence after defeating Colombia in their first game.

We will have to be focused and I have no doubt Glenn Hoddle will have the team in the right frame of mind. It is a full week since England's first fixture and they have had time to get their thoughts set on the next job in hand after the satisfaction of the Tunisia performance.

This should be a useful benchmark to indicate just how far England are likely to go at these championships.

Adams rested and raring to go

BEING FORCED to sit around and watch on all but one of the 13 days that Glenn Hoddle's England squad has so far spent in France might have caused problems beyond the coach's control. But fortunately for Hoddle there has been little evidence of falling out or fighting among the troops, and one or two tales of unexpected resourcefulness.

Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham have occupied their spare time by taking bets on the tournament, while others have amused themselves in interviews by trying to insert as many song titles as possible into their answers.

The undisputed champion is Tony Adams, who managed five in a two and a half minute interrogation. But before England flew to Toulouse yesterday for tonight's Group G encounter with Romania, the defensive linchpin was in slightly more serious mood.

"There are two ways to look at the time we had without a game," Adams said. "It's been a good rest, hasn't it? If our guys had had to play again on Thursday after the beat of Marseilles on Monday, they might not have been ready."

England's defensive stalwart is in confident mood ahead of tonight's crucial match. By Richard Smith

"But the negative side of it is that you're actually away for a long time. It can get a little boring and you just want to get out there and play again. But the win over Tunisia was important for morale."

Adams' own display in that match was just one of many significant influences on the way the England side performed, particularly as the defenders were under pressure to adjust to the new regulations. Adams is not too concerned about that.

"I got worried a couple of days ago when we had the five sendings-off in one day after the memo from Platini went round," Adams said. "And I think it's a good thing. Obviously it encourages forwards to play, which is great, and good defenders can adapt."

"It's a balance, isn't it? You can take it to extremes and encourage diving as well, so we've got to be very careful. But that's out of our control, it's down to the referee."

The attitude of the England side in the opening match was if anything more impressive than the result. Adams, however, was not surprised. "Nobody needed motivating for that game," he said. "The players are all good professionals and we just needed a few pointers in certain directions."

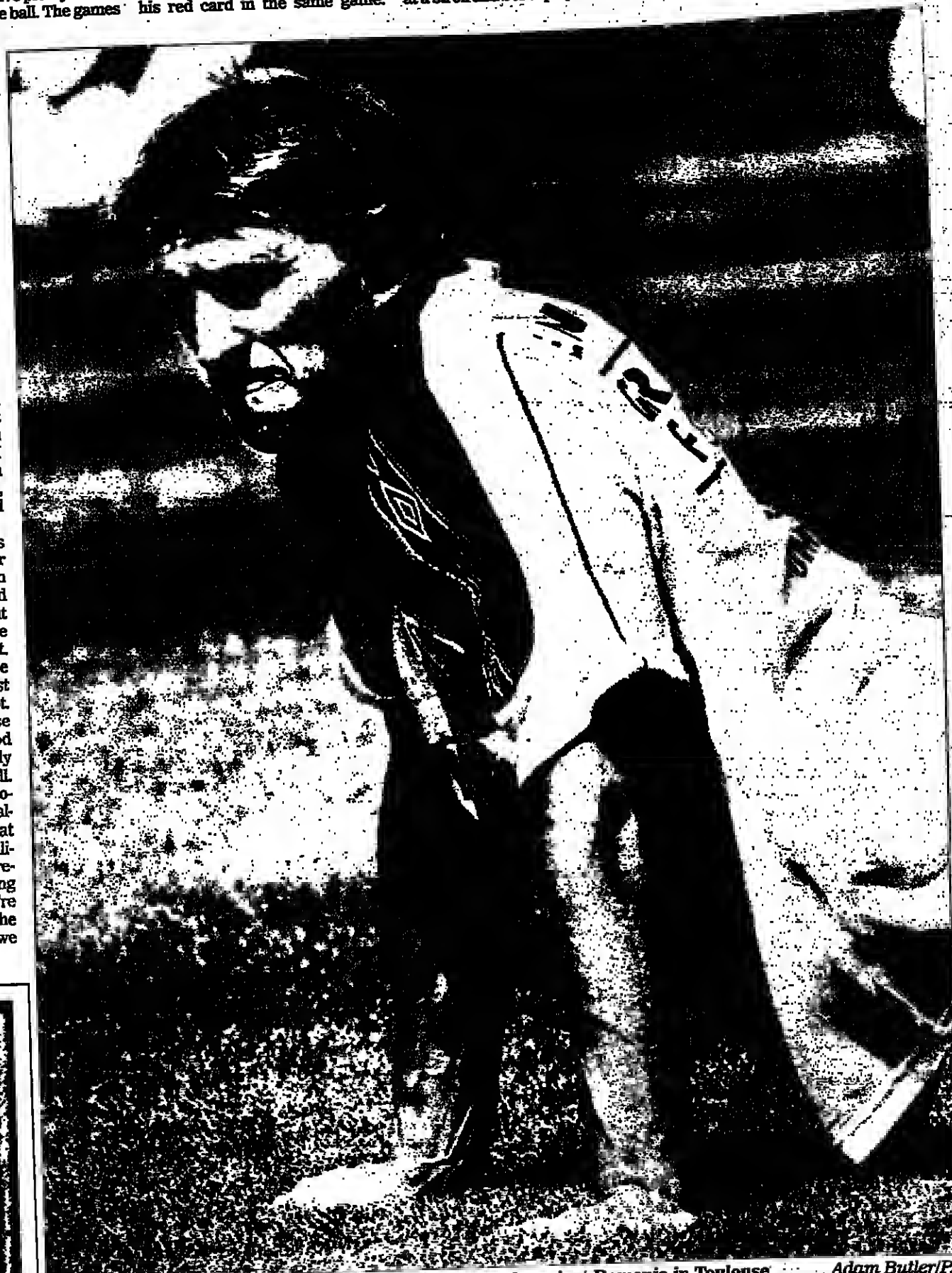
"The fans inside the ground were wonderful. I know there was trouble outside the ground but the atmosphere inside was electric. I was very nervous, but I didn't expect anything else. It was pretty special and I was pleased with my reaction to the nervousness. I think it's important you have a look at how your body's reacting and I was pleased I was able to do my job."

But it was very difficult. The music at the warm-up was incredible and so distracting when you're trying to focus on your game. The whole country wants you to do well, family and friends, but you've got to forget it and get on with your job."

"It can affect people in different ways. If people get nervous they can go into their shell, they can hide. Going back to my debut when I was 17 years old against Sunderland I gave a goal away in the first minute but I was pretty damn pleased with my reaction. I kicked a few people, I made a few tackles and a few headers, we still lost but I was pleased that I didn't give in."

As far as today's opponents are concerned, Adams is under no illusions. "I think they're an excellent side," he said. "And not enough has been said about them. He looks like one of the best players in the tournament. He's actually left-footed but he scored a great goal against Colombia with his right foot. Hagi on his day can cause problems. They've got good wing-backs and defensively they look pretty strong as well."

"But, whether we beat Romania or not, our goal is to qualify. We'll be trying to beat Romania so that we can qualify in two games, but we're realistic as well. I'm not saying we'll play for a draw, but they're a very good side, probably the best side in the group that we have to play."



Tony Adams stretches during training for tonight's match against Romania in Toulouse. Adam Butler/PA

Romania stay relaxed

THE ONE detail that stood out when Romania limbered up at the Municipal stadium in Toulouse on Saturday evening was how relaxed they appeared to be in preparation for tonight's match against England.

Grateful for the cool breeze that coincided with their arrival on the banks of the river Garonne, the Romanians proved more agreeable than expected, raising no objection to scrutiny and interrogation.

In such circumstances the work being done is of no more value in assessment than watching a fighter shape up to his reflection of a golfer on the practice ground. Importantly, however, there was nothing to suggest that Romania's coach, Anghel Iordanescu, is the least bit concerned by the slight injuries reported last week after the 1-0 defeat of Colombia in Lyons.

Apart from the first-choice goalkeeper, Bogdan Stelea, whose confinement to the touchline was explained as a precautionary measure, all the Romanians took part in the vigorous six-sided matches that followed the usual routine of stretching exercises.

Of greater concern to Iordanescu is the rift caused between his players (nothing new in football) and the Romanian press corps by criticism of Stelea following the 2-2 draw to which Romania were held by Paraguay when preparing for the World Cup finals. "It has been very silly," one of the Romanian sports writers said.



KEN JONES

"Our supporters saw Paraguay as a little team we should have beaten easily and they took it out on Stelea for making a couple of bad mistakes. Stelea didn't help matters when he made an obscene gesture to the crowd but we (the press) are held to blame by the players for not standing by him, so now they don't speak to us."

Meanwhile, Iordanescu appears confident that his team can give England plenty of trouble in Toulouse, pointing out that Romania's colours have not been lowered by them since a 1-0 defeat at the 1970 World Cup finals in Mexico. "Partly from what I've seen, partly from speaking with Dan Petrescu (the Chelsea wing back) who has been heavily involved in the build-up to tonight's match, I know about technical developments in English football," Iordanescu said. "But if England no longer concentrate so much on direct play they still send in lots of centres and are very strong physically."

Apparently, it is not in Iordanescu's mind to play for the point that would put Romania within reach of qualification for the second round.

"That would be a dangerous policy," he said. "We have enough technical ability and World Cup experience to win the match and although I have been told that England are very confident, they may be worried about us, especially as they gave up opportunities for Tunisia to score against them last week in Marseilles."

When watching Romania for Glenn Hoddle last week, Dave Sexton was most impressed by the composed progress they made from defence to attack. "It wasn't easy to get a read on them, because Colombia never put their game together," Sexton said when we spoke by telephone over the weekend.

"But Romania looked very relaxed with good team work and a fluid system. Colombia left Asprilla up on his own in the first half and as he didn't do much other than complain (probably the main reason why Colombia dumped him). Romania's defenders weren't put under a great deal of pressure."

Operating a version of 4-4-2 with Gheorghe Popescu - who still mutters darkly about his time at Tottenham - as the covering central defender, Romania continue to draw inspiration from Gheorghe Hagi. At 32, and after 111 appearances for his country, Hagi remains the strolling orchestrator of Romania's offensive play, wandering in midfield, sometimes

taking a rest out wide to replenish his energy.

Hagi, too, dismisses the idea that caution would be Romania's best policy against England. "We didn't play for a draw against Colombia and there is no reason why we should think differently about this match," he said. "Comparing our players with theirs, Romania need not feel inferior. If we win, then we go to the next round, so victory must be our main objective," he added. "We are playing to be first in our group and have the men to achieve it."

Nobody more, Hagi thinks, than Romania's principal attacker, Adrian Ilie, who has improved no end since joining Valencia in Spain. Ilie's *soubriquet* the Cobra springs from a description of style by Valencia's coach, Claudio Ranieri. "Ilie has a way of playing that causes defenders to lose concentration, then he strikes when they least expect it, just like a snake."

When this was put to Hagi after Ilie scored against Colombia, he smiled. "A big talent," he said. "Ilie has learned a lot very quickly since going to Spain and could be one of the big stars in this World Cup."

A star himself in the USA finals four years ago, Hagi relishes the prospect of testing David Seaman with free-kicks. "You have not practised them here," somebody said to him on Saturday evening, and Hagi grinned. Romania did not mind an audience, but they weren't about to show us anything that might matter.

Romania?
No sweat.

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EAMON DUNPHY

AFTER ALL the anticipation, some sense of anti-climax was inevitable. Almost two weeks into the tournament we have seen much that is ordinary, little of the sublime, too many so-so matches. Austria v Cameroon, Mexico v South Korea, Bulgaria v Paraguay, for example.

The powerful football nations - Spain excepted - are cruising towards the real tournament which starts next weekend with the second phase, where failure means a bus to the airport and the long journey home.

Nothing I have seen causes me to revise my original opinion that Argentina are the most likely champions. Despite being rather fortunate to beat Japan in their opening game Daniel Passarella's side look the part even when playing well within themselves, to the point of carelessness towards the end of their first game.

Japan proved game and admirably fluent. Although a minor football power, the Japanese played the game intelligently, passing and moving in a manner that puts much Premiership football to shame. The same can be said of Paraguay, who almost embarrassed Spain in St Etienne on Friday night.

In stark contrast to Japan and Paraguay, Norway have declined to play the game as it should be played, reminding us of nothing so much as an average Premiership side on tour.

It would be good for football, and this World Cup, if Brazil give Egil Olsen's men a spanking tomorrow in Marseilles. And of course victory for Brazil will help Scotland's cause which, thanks to the demeanour of their coach Craig Brown, his players and their fans, is acquiring a certain nobility.

However it is England's match against Romania in Toulouse tonight that commands more immediate fascination. As I write Toulouse is tense but peaceful. By the time your newspaper is delivered, that may have changed.

How to cope with the travelling English hooligans has, sadly, preoccupied the host nation since Marseilles a week ago. As always, it seems, authority can only summon anguish, and new measures, when faced by the challenge of English blaggards. Should Toulouse, and subsequently other host cities, endure the trauma of Marseilles last weekend then serious questions



Romania's Adrian Ilie, who could be a major threat to England tonight, scores the winning goal against Colombia last week

Empics

might be asked about English participation in international football competitions.

Is it really acceptable given all we know, all that has been inflicted on the citizens of Dublin, Rome, Marseilles, that English hooligans should be allowed to blight the pleasures of all unfortunate enough to cross their path? Of course not.

The sardonic arrogance of Alan Clark, a former government minister, who said the hooligans are merely being English in the traditional sense can be dismissed as a yobbish wind-up. More profoundly depressing is the hand-wringing of the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, as he talks of increasing prison sentences to six months.

Why not six years? As things stand the English hooligan is a man to be reckoned with. The attention of the international media and

politicians such as Clark and Straw provide a considerable psychological boost to his ego.

More status is conferred by the erection of the stage on which our hooligan friends perform; the vast security operation created at great expense involving international police forces across the continents. By such means the English hooligan is gratified, noticed, indeed institutionalised. Why not simply stop known terror-spreading travelling? And those who offend should go to prison for years rather than months when they are caught. More outbreaks of this English disease would be intolerable.

To blame FIFA for failing to ensure a proper allocation of match tickets is to miss one point. The behaviour of English fans is England's responsibility, not FIFA's. International football's governing body does,

however, have the obligation of ensuring that cities hosting their games - and fans attending those games - can enjoy the experience free of fear.

Bearing that in mind, trouble in Toulouse, or elsewhere during this tournament, must pose questions about England's future participation in international football. In the arena England made a very impressive start against Tunisia. Glenn Hoddle's critics are wrong to seek success by reference to Tunisia's apparent inadequacies. England never allowed Tunisia the time and space to play.

Forcing the pace, passing and moving with conviction and purpose, creating and then taking their chances, England's was the most striking World Cup debut of any contending nation.

One performance will not dissolve reservations about Glenn Hoddle's

modus operandi. His critics are, however temporarily, on the back foot. Hoddle's most contentious decision preference for Darren Anderton over David Beckham, while not being vindicated, was rendered irrelevant by a splendid team performance. Alan Shearer menacingly aggressive as always. Graeme Le Saux tackled crisply and delivered beautifully sighted crosses. Paul Ince and David Batty comfortably controlled midfield. Gazza could be forgotten, a sideshow.

Tonight the Romanians will provide a sterner test of England's players and in particular the Hoddle system: 3-5-2. Tunisia's fleeting opportunities allowed one glimpse where better sides may hurt England, down the gullies, in behind the wing-backs where there is too much space.

An ageing team, with dodgy morale, Romania still field players of sufficient quality and experience to pose substantial questions. Adrian Ilie, Marius Lacatus, Dan Petrescu and that old rogue Gheorghe Hagi will not exactly be spoiling for a fight, but there is enough guile and ability in this Romanian team to provide us with a true measure of England's potential. Alas, as far as the English are concerned, the merit of their team is only part of the story.

As I conclude this piece, the voice of Graham Kelly echoes in the background assuring, in plaintive tone, a television news reporter in Toulouse that things are tense but OK. The hope is that that is true.

That sport will be tomorrow morning's front page story cannot be held with any real conviction. 3-5-2 may be the least of England's troubles.



DIARY

AFTER LEAKING eight goals to Mexico and the Netherlands, South Korea may wish they had toned down their advanced publicity. They have yet to win a game in the finals, though to read their media guide one might assume they are a global power. Alongside their statistical profile runs a one-line cameo. Kim Tae-young is a "Sticky defender in an incredible fight". Choi Sung-yong is, confusingly, "the witty little giant" and Seo Yung-won has the unfortunate moniker "Son of the Wind". The squad are collectively described as the "Invincible Korean Warriors" which ironically was the very adjective used by their now-sacked coach Cha Bum-kun, to sum up the Dutch.

WHEN A German voice got through on the telephone to his room at Scotland's hotel in St-Remy-de-Provence, Paul Lambert assumed it was a colleague playing a practical joke. The caller claimed to be a dentist offering free dentures to Lambert's room mate, Craig Burley, who bared a toothless grin after scoring against Norway. In return, Burley would visit the dentist's neighbourhood to coach local children. Lambert, who gained a European Cup winners' medal with Borussia Dortmund, considered the German spoken to be so good he advised his Celtic colleague that the approach was genuine. Burley certainly looks the part, a change of hair colour from brown to bleached blond giving him a timely Tonic look.

PAUL McDADD and his new wife Mo Casey, England Travel Club members honeymooning in France, have been rescued by the FA after only Paul gained a ticket for today's game. His wife wrote to the FA asking if they could also find her one and eventually they did, even rearranging their allocation so the newly-weds could sit together. A friend of the couple has sent off his own missive to the FA saying: "Have I got to get married to see England?"

Scary choice of gay or hooligan

"ARE YOU gay?" Actually, it wasn't a question, it was more like, "You're gay, then."

"What?" I couldn't quite believe my ears. I'd only met the bloke about ten seconds before.

"Gay - you know, homo, queer." "No, I'm not gay," I said, nearly choking on my Evian.

"Thank Christ for that," he said. "You don't mind me asking, do you, it's just I wouldn't be able to sleep a wink all night for thinking about it, if I hadn't asked."

We were on the Toulouse night train from Paris and we had ended up in the same sleeper compartment. Just the two of us. I eyed the guy closely as I stood next to him in the corridor, watching the silhouetted landscape flash by. Crewcut, T-shirt, broad grin, early thirties.

"You?" I said. "What?"

"Gay?"

"No way!" he said. "I'm married. The missus is not too pleased I'm here, either."

We both breathed a sigh of relief. Now we'd totally cleared the air. Neither of us was gay. We were going a hell of a long way to spend several hours in a tight spot with several thousand other guys watching men in shorts, but we weren't gay. We were straight.

"You a hooligan, then?" Neil.



ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



from Reading relegated from First Division this year, after reaching the play-offs the year before), had probably the most direct line in conversation I'd ever come across, and would have been a natural for a job with the Spanish Inquisition. Again, it was more like, "You are a hooligan, I suppose." Serves me right for getting my hair cut short before I came over.

So these are the two options left open to the England fan: gay or hooligan. There is no middle ground. Sadistic violence or homo-eroticism, you choose. Either you beat the living daylight out of any passing citizen, or he'll assume you're bent. Perhaps this is the secret neurosis of every Category C. I couldn't help noticing that World Cup kit was flaunted at the Gay Pride parade in Paris on Saturday, when Ronaldo was voted the sexiest player of the year.

But the question of sexual tendency was not Neil's only anxiety. "Where'd you get a drink around here? I want to get a few beers in before getting my head down."

We soon discovered that this was a dry train. It was going hundreds of miles and taking eight hours to do it and there was not a drop on board. Not even Coke. We couldn't believe it. There were about a thousand England fans on board going down for the match and no bar car. Neil was fuming. "No drink for you - you're a hooligan. They treat you like a hooligan, it's enough to make you start acting like one."

Neil had run into Lennox Lewis on the Eurostar and with his characteristic bluntness (a) got his autograph (b) took his picture and (c) said: "Lennox, you're going to have to lay off the lager, look at the gut on you." The Lewis entourage held

their breath, but Lennox benevolently lifted his baggy shirt (misconstrued by Neil as lab) and displayed his perfect six-pack abs to demonstrate that he was, in fact, fighting fit. Neil wasn't wholly satisfied though, since this giant of a man, head and shoulders taller than he was and twice as broad, with hands the size of prize cauliflowers, was going to the Jamaica game in Paris instead of following England down south.

"Lennox," he said, "first you go off to Canada, then you come back, but you're supporting the Reggae Boyz. You have got to get yourself sorted!"

As we bedded down for the night - Neil on one side of the couchette (or "couchette" as he called it) still complaining bitterly about the drink-free zone, I on the other - he gave me his theory about the Marseilles aggro. "You see, the French, they don't like the Marseillais - all North African, aren't they. They'd like to be shot of them. So they sent the English boys in and said, 'Go on, you sort them out for us.' It was like the Normandy landings all over again."

And it is true that, when I was in Paris, Virginia grabbed my arm and said, "Don't go, c'est la guerre! You won't come back alive." But in Toulouse they don't seem to want liberating. Not by the British anyway.

Giant screens have been dismantled (potential flash-point), bars ordered to close early (although 11 pm allows for a lot more drinking than on the train), and an entire music festival postponed until after the England game. I went to Toulouse, but it was closed.

The reputation of the Anglais is so fearsome that even I am worried and I am one of them. As the ticket inspector on the train said, "I just hope you don't lose. Look what happened when you won."

Almost as soon as I got out of the station my worst fears were confirmed. There, lying in wait for me at the café across the street, was a whole gang of classic English hooligan-types. Skinheads, with the odd mohican, regulation tattoos, steel-toecaps, zipper jackets, the works. Oh-oh. This is the bit where I finally get my head kicked in. I should have listened to Virginia.

As I sauntered non-confrontationally by, deaf to requests for loose change, I realized: either these guys have the most impeccable French accents ever, or they actually are French. And, as I headed on down the street in my T-shirt, that was a shade too tight, and my Headworn surf shorts, and my DM sandals, and the well-toned muscles, I could almost hear them thinking, "Lui? Il est gay."

Brown favours the calm option

BY PHIL SHAW
in Avignon

CRAIG BROWN, preparing for "the biggest game of my life" for the second time in a week, reacted philosophically yesterday to reports in the Brazilian media that Mario Zagallo plans to field a weakened side against Norway tomorrow.

The Scotland manager is in the peculiar position of knowing that a draw in their simultaneous Group A fixture, against Morocco in St Etienne, could take his team into the second phase for the first time. On the other hand, should Norway beat the world champions, a win will not. On learning that Brazil were considering resting seven first choices, Brown conceded: "I must admit I'd be tempted to do the same in their position."

"Mr Zagallo has had to concern himself with the next round. They're in it already, so he'll want to keep his players fresh. It's entirely up to him. Obviously, it's a problem for us, but we knew we ran that risk when the draw was made."

Brown suspected that Norway could shock Brazil simply because they were overdue a good performance. "They haven't played up to

their capabilities yet," he said. "But the style of play they favour - the long, diagonal ball over the top of the full-backs - is ideally suited to damage the Brazilians."

Scotland's starting line-up in the Geoffroy Guichard stadium is likely to be the one which finished so strongly against Norway in Bordeaux. Brown will certainly retain Craig Burley, who equalised minutes after switching from wing-back, in the central midfield role he favours with Celtic.

The only selection quandaries concern whether to move Christian Dailly from the left flank to replace Burley and bring in Toshi McKinlay, or to leave the Derby player where he is and use Jackie McNamara on the right. At the back, where Colin Calderwood's injury has created a vacancy, Brown said it was "a toss-up" between David Weir and Matt Elliott.

Calderwood is back in the camp, albeit with a heavily bandaged hand. Professor Stewart Hillis, the team doctor, described the wiring holding together the Tottenham defender's hand as "like a Meccano set". Billy McKinlay, who had also been ruled out of the Morocco match, is now given a slight chance of recovering

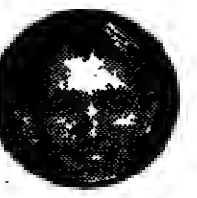
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Batistuta swats Jamaica aside

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
at Parc des Princes, Paris

Argentina 3, 55,
Batistuta 73, 79, pen 83
Jamaica 0
Att: 48,500

ARGENTINA, NOTORIOUSLY intolerant of upstart islands on the Atlantic seaboard, swatted aside the brave challenge of Jamaica yesterday. A marvelous double from Ariel Ortega, twice chipping goals after bursting through from midfield, put the former world champions on course for a possible meeting with England in the first knock-out round.

On this form, they will be fearsome opposition. Glenn Hoddle's men have more motivation than ever to win their own group to avoid them.

Gabriel Batistuta hit the easiest hat-trick he will ever score against the tiring 10-men Jamaicans in the last 15 minutes, promoting him instantly to the

highest scorer in the competition with four goals. The late deluge - equalling the highest score so far - left Argentina comfortably ahead of Croatia on goal difference. The two meet to dispute the championship of Group H in Bordeaux on Friday.

An Argentina team packed with players from the Italian and Spanish leagues easily outclassed a Caribbean blend of locals and English-born also-rans. Jamaica lost Darryl Powell to a clumsy challenge and the second yellow card on the stroke of half-time. But the game was up long before that.

In the early stages, Jamaica's pace and strength in wide positions troubled the South Americans. Ricardo Gardner on the left began to embarrass the right wing-back, Javier Zanetti. Harbour View taking on and beating Internazionale. In the 12th minute, Gardner seemed to be tripped in the area when clean through but Mr Pedersen, the Norwegian referee, saw no fault.

The Argentinians were content to bunch behind the halfway line and tried to surprise a sometimes ponderous Jamaican defence. It seemed only a matter of time before one of the bewildering interchanges of passes between the blue and white shirts paid off. Claudio Lopez, unmarked on the left, headed fiercely down but wide from a good cross by Zanetti. Ortega dribbled past two defenders on the half-hour, only to shoot weakly at Warren Barrett.

Four minutes later, Ortega made no mistake. After a sharp one-two with Batistuta, Juan Veron saw the midfielders run into the right edge of the box. He stroked the ball into Ortega's path and the little man chipped the ball sweetly over Barrett.

Deon Burton, Jamaica's best player in the first half, mysteriously failed to appear after the interval. Peter Carrillo joined the midfield, leaving Paul Hall alone up front. It seemed that Rene Simoes, Jamaica's Brazilian trainer, had decided that his 10 men should keep the score down. But the marvellous Jamaican fans deserved better.

In any case, it was to no avail. In the 60th minute Ortega performed an encore, this time swooping from the left. He exchanged high-speed passes with Lopez and scooped the ball over Barrett and into the far corner of the net.

Jamaica rallied briefly. Theodore Whitmore shot narrowly wide from the edge of the penalty area and Ian Goodison headed over from a free-kick but all the real threat continued to come from the men in the striped shirts. In the 76th minute, Ortega completed an impressive match, finding Batistuta unmarked on the right side of the box. The striker fired a glorious cross-shot past Barrett. Six minutes later, with Jamaica flagging cruelly, he strode through the middle to score his second. Two minutes from the end Chris Dawes pushed Ortega over in the area and Batistuta scored from the spot.

ARGENTINA (3-5-2): Rios (Marcelo); Chassot (Lazio), Aguirre (Napoli), Simeoni (Parma); Zanetti (Internazionale), Alcantara (Lazio), Simeoni (Internazionale); Veron (San Marino), Ortega (Internazionale), Batistuta (Fiorentina), Lopez (Lazio). JAMAICA (3-5-2): Burton (Violet Kickers); Shearer (Chester), Dawes (Skelton), Goodison (Chester), Gardner (Macclesfield), Carrillo (Luton); Powell (Derby County), Marcano (Skelton), Goodison (Chester), Gardner (Macclesfield), Carrillo (Luton). Referee: Mr Pedersen (Norway).

South Africans send two players home

TWO SOUTH African players, Brendan Augustine and Naughtie Mokoena, are to be sent home after staying out until dawn yesterday.

Augustine, who had started both of South Africa's matches so far, and the reserve Mokoena will miss the rest of their country's first finals for night-climbing until 5.10am in Vichy.

The South African Football Association president, Molefi Oliphant, said: "They've been suspended. They won't be part of the team for the duration of the World Cup."

According to Oliphant and the Saffa chief executive, Danny Jordaan, the two players went out on Saturday night in violation of a team curfew. When confronted yesterday, they admitted making a mistake, but Oliphant said: "It's not a mistake, it's defiance."

The South African coach, Philippe Troussier, had reached the end of his tether with the pair, who will be flying home today. "It is the second time these players have done this

and I cannot accept it. They have a responsibility to the team and the country, and they have to respect that," he said. The previous weekend it was reported that 10 players went out on a late-night drinking spree, the day after South Africa had been beaten 3-0 by France in their opening match.

South Korea's coach, Cha Bum-kun, was sacked yesterday following his side's 5-0 thrashing by the Netherlands on Saturday.

Cha, the second coach to be fired at France 98 after Saudi Arabia dismissed Carlos Alberto Parreira on Saturday, agreed that he had to take the responsibility for the Koreans' early exit from the tournament. "I did my best, but the results were very poor," he said.

The 45-year-old will be replaced by his assistant, Kim Pyung-seok, for the South Koreans' final game against Belgium on Thursday. The Saudis, meanwhile, have appointed Mohammad Al-Kharashi as their caretaker coach.



Argentina's Ariel Ortega chips the ball sweetly over Warren Barrett for his side's first goal yesterday

Matthäus re-starts Germans' motor

BY PHIL DAVISON
at Stade Félix Bollaert, Lens

Germany 74, Bierhoff 79
Yugoslavia
Stankovic 13, Stojkovic 58
Att: 40,775

IT WOULD be romantic to say that when he came on at half-time, for his 125th cap and his fifth straight World Cup appearance, there was a sense that Lothar Matthäus would turn this game around. Many Germans may have believed it but within nine minutes of his coming on, Germany were two down and Matthäus was looking every one of his 37 years.

Then the little man, and his side, got upset. It is as well that somebody got them angry at their second World Cup game, because people say they are not a shadow of the great German sides but at least now they know what they are like when they are down.

Yugoslavia were back in the World Cup finals for the first time since their country's break-up but their side showed no signs of breaking up - until Matthäus greeted the German machine.

Spearheaded by Predrag Mijatovic, the man who led Real Madrid to last month's European Cup victory against Juventus, Yugoslavia immediately reminded the Germans of who they once were - before civil war fragmented the nation.

Germany's goalkeeper, Andreas Köpke, was having one of those days. A harmless looking cross from the left from Mijatovic in the 13th minute looked like it was Köpke's ball or nobody's. It bounced once, Köpke misjudged it, Dejan Stankovic appeared to get the outside of a boot to it, the ball hit the post and trundled into the net before the German defender Jens Jeremies could intercept it.

The Yugoslavs took control. Even Matthäus's half-time entry did not look like stemming the flow. By stepping on to the pitch here, Matthäus equalled the record of Mexico's Antonio Carbajal, who appeared in consecutive World Cup finals between 1950-66. With his 22nd World Cup finals appearance, the German also equalled the record held by Diego Maradona. West Germany's Uwe Seeler and Poland's Wladyslaw Zmuda.

Not a man for public bugs, the coach Berti Vogts recorded the occasion with the warmest embrace he could muster on the day, a fist clasp with Matthäus, and the suggestion of a smile.

Matthäus or no, within nine minutes of the break, the Yugoslavs were two up and Köpke's nightmare looked complete. Darko Kovacevic crossed from the right, Köpke appeared to have smothered the ball, but it slithered past his body and Dragan Stojkovic had little trouble prodding it home. Group F began to look wide open. It began to look a question of how many Yugoslavia could score.

Enter the little man. Matthäus turned the game around, his day spoilt only by a yellow card for a trip on Stojkovic in the 77th minute. Until almost the last 15 minutes, the Germans were still two down. But, prodded by Matthäus, they threw everything at the upstarts from the Balkans. In the 74th minute, their pressure paid off. The substitute Michael Tarnat, on for Jeremies, hammered a free-kick towards goal. The ball ricocheted off Sinisa Mihajlovic and cannoned into the net.

Six minutes later, after intense pressure, Germany were level. Jürgen Klinsmann just failed to reach a corner from Olaf Thon from the right but Oliver Bierhoff was behind him to crash an unstoppable header past Ivica Kralj.

For the last 10 minutes, the Yugoslavs appeared to have been jolted back to reality, content with a draw. Vladimir Jugovic sounded a warning that, if the Yugoslavs go further, he will be the man to watch. Until Matthäus's entry, Jugovic bossed the midfield, spraying passes and walking past the German defence almost at will. Mijatovic (3-5-2): Köpke (Marcello); Bierhoff (Bayern München), Rostker (Borussia Dortmund), Thon (Schalke 04), Mijatovic (1889 München), Marcano (Bayern München), Zige (Main), Klinsmann (Bayern München), Tarnat (Hamburg), Stankovic (Red Star Belgrade), Jeremies (Schalke 04), Stojkovic (Red Star Belgrade), Mihajlovic (Real Madrid). Referee: Mr Pedersen (Norway).

Halle ready for call from Norway

THE LEEDS United defender Gunnar Halle is set to be recalled by Norway against Brazil tomorrow when the Norwegians face one of the biggest matches in their history.

While the coach Egil Olsen has tried to play down the importance of the Group A encounter, Halle realised that Norway must avoid defeat against the world champions to ensure qualification for the second round.

They could lose by a one-goal margin and still go through if Scotland and Morocco draw at St Etienne at the same time. But Halle is optimistic that Norway can at least draw against Brazil, having beaten them 4-2 in a friendly in Oslo last year.

"This is going to be one of the most important matches we've ever played," said Halle. "I don't know if Brazil have got any real weaknesses, but we're confident we can get a result against them."

Olsen is not so sure. He rates Norway's chances of upsetting Brazil as around 20 per cent. "Not a lot has changed," he said. If Norway do go out, it would mark the second straight first-round exit from the World Cup finals for the Norwegians under Olsen, who is tipped to take over as coach of Celtic after the tournament.

No wonder he is treating the match in such a low-key manner. "There's no difference," he said. "It's only a football game, just like all the others. It's an especially important one, of course, but one of the things that makes it special is that we don't know if it's the last. I shall be asking the players the same thing as I always ask them - that they do their very best."

The Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira and the Chelsea defender Frank Leboeuf may win their first finals call-ups for France in Wednesday's Group C finale with Denmark.

Vieira could replace the captain Didier Deschamps and Leboeuf may deputise for Laurent Blanc, as both Deschamps and Blanc are on one yellow

card, and another one would keep them out of the hosts' second-round match. Players with just one yellow card in the group games have that caution quashed for the knock-out phase.

"I have to watch out over the yellow cards issue," said the France coach, Aimé Jacquet. "But I want to put my best team out really and we'll be playing for a win in Lyon."

Vieira is certainly not banking on being called up. "I'm not wondering whether or not I might get into the team for the next match. It's up to Jacquet," said the young Gunner.

The only France players definitely out of consideration are the suspended Zinedine Zidane, who also misses the second-round match following his sending-off against Saudi Arabia, and the injured striker Christophe Dugarry.

Denmark's coach, Bo Johansson, is still a long way from deciding how to approach the game against France.

"I think I've got five line-ups in mind right now," the Swede said before training near Marseilles yesterday. He has been

forced to rethink his strategy due to the suspensions of both Miklos Molnar and Morten Wieghorst, sent off in the red card-strewn 1-1 draw with South Africa last Thursday.

"You never know how things are going to work out, so you always have to plan for everything," said Johansson, who had gone into his first two matches with near identical line-ups. Having only narrowly defeated the Saudis 1-0 - France then crushed the same team 4-0 - and failed to capitalise on a bright start against South Africa, the Danes are sorely in need of goals from somewhere this week.

The veteran midfielder Michael Laudrup, playing his last competitive tournament, could be given a less defensive role while the striker Ebbe Sand, still to score for Denmark, could lose his place up front alongside Laudrup's younger brother, Brian.

A draw will guarantee Denmark progress - but they could be knocked out on goal difference if they lose badly. South Africa play Saudi Arabia later on Wednesday.

IN FRANCE WITHOUT A TICKET

Nicholas Harting's daily quest to see a World Cup match: Days 11 and 12

AFTER THE first scares with inflated prices, yesterday turned out to be a prestige seat worth 1,800 francs.

Too much, I thought. "I'm not paying that," I said. "How much you pay?" he asked.

"One thousand," I replied. He handed over the ticket. It was the most I had ever paid to watch a match.

Then, following me, he shouted: "Meester, Meester, wrong ticket," proffering a 250 franc ticket.

"No way!" I screamed at him. "I paid for this ticket." With that he made his excuses and disappeared. Total games: 12. Total cost price: 4990f. Total price paid: 4,895f. Two failures to get in.

Football crazy.



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SPORT

ENGLAND BOWED AND BEATEN P24 • SISTERS MARCH ON WIMBLEDON P19

England look to pass first test

BY GLENN MOORE
in Toulouse



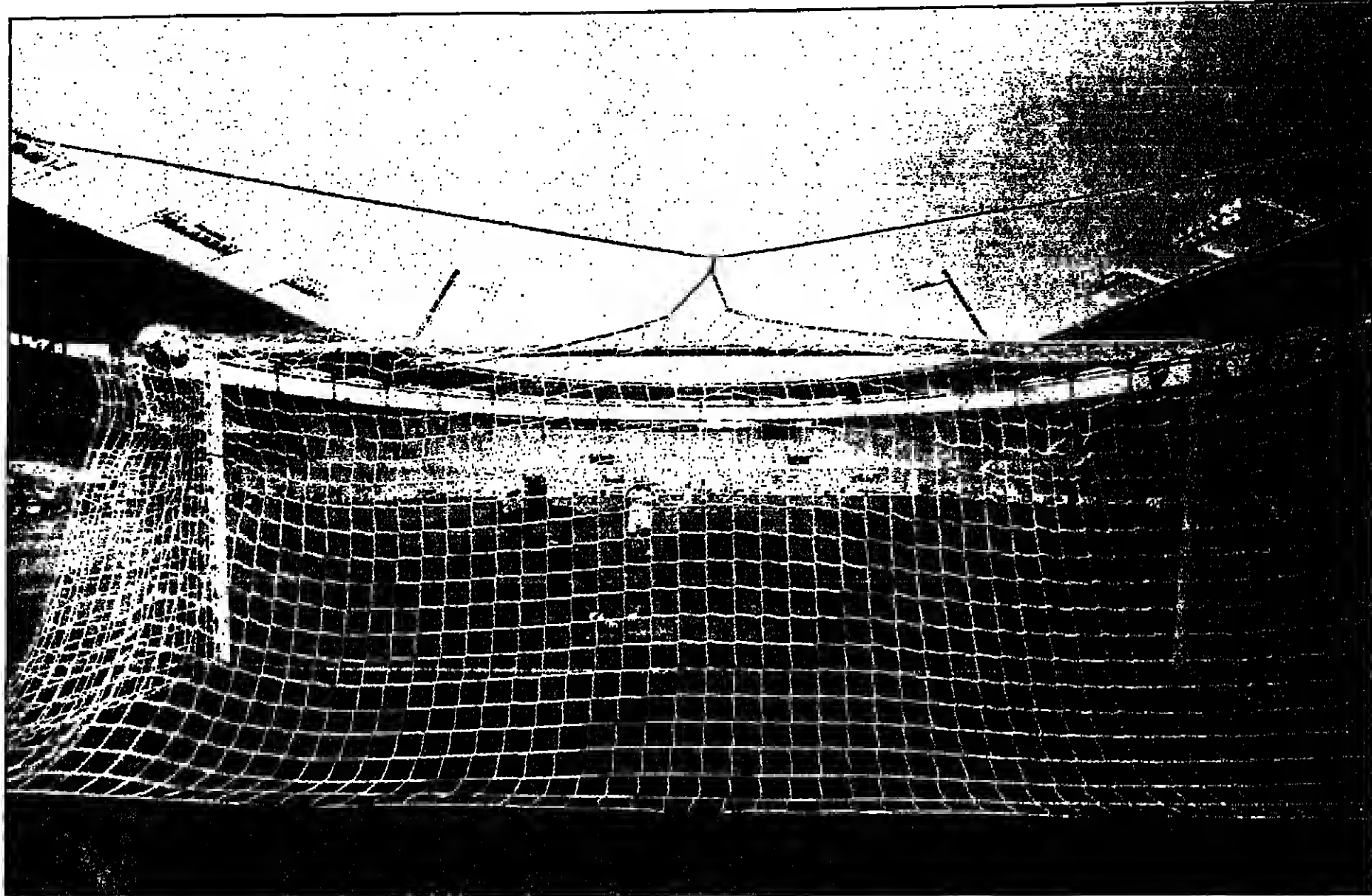
THE FRENCH put a rocket into space from Toulouse, tonight Glenn Hoddle would settle for launching England towards the second stage of the World Cup.

Having achieved a comfortable if underwhelming victory over Tunisia last week, England now face the first genuine test of their potential. Romania may not be the force of USA 94 when their victory over Argentina was one of the tournament's highlights but, as their near-perfect qualifying record showed, they still have players of quality and experience.

England, who flew into this ancient city yesterday afternoon and trained at the Stade Municipal last night, are full of confidence. Collectively they feel well-prepared and capable of victory. Individually they are aware that this is their chance to seize the moment. The sight of David Beckham on the bench in Marseille was a reminder of the standards required to keep their places.

Beckham is likely to remain on the bench tonight, as the feeling is that while Darren Anderton has certainly played better than he did last Monday, he will grow stronger with every game and adds pace and a goal threat to England's right flank. He may not last the match though. With temperatures remaining high across France - and Toulouse, only 60 miles from the Spanish border, is very hot and humid - substitutions could prove important even with an evening kick-off. As a wing-back against a team strong on the overlap, Anderton is likely to do more work than most.

The only change from the team which defeated Tunisia 2-0 is thus likely to be an enforced one. Gareth Southgate sat out training last night and is expected to fail a fitness test on his ankle injury. Gary Neville is the likely replacement though



England's Alan Shearer puts in some practice at the Stade Municipal in Toulouse yesterday as he shoots past Tim Flowers

David Ashdown

Martin Keown is a possibility. Unlucky to be dropped in the first place, Neville's comfort in wider positions may actually strengthen England, who were occasionally exposed down the flanks against Tunisia - as teams with wing-backs often are.

Romania play a similar style so

England will be looking to get behind and around them - another reason for Anderton's inclusion on the right and the basis for what is likely to be a lively tussle between Graeme Le Saux and Dan Petrescu on England's left.

John Gorman, the England coach who has watched Romania three

times, said: "They have tremendous flair, the movement out wide is excellent and they are mobile. [Gheorghe] Hagi is always a threat, he has so much ability. But they give teams a chance."

Though Romania are the seeded team in Group C, England will start favourites. Romania have an high-

ly promising striker in Adrian Ilie, who scored 12 goals in 13 games after joining Valencia for £2.4m mid-season, but he is poorly supported. Marius Lacatus, Ilie Dumitrescu and Hagi are past their best while Viorel Moldovan is still to show he was worth the £3.2m Coventry paid for him.

The midfield is solid rather than frightening and the defence over-reliant on Gheorghe Popescu's reading of the game.

However, they are strong on the overlap, have a decent goalkeeper, and will be technically proficient in all areas. They may not be especially hard-working but are adept at mak-

ing the ball do most of the work. They are also apparently very relaxed, the various disputes with their own federation, with their fans and the Romanian media having bonded rather than fractured the team.

"We have a well-balanced team of youth and experience," said Anghel Iordanescu, the Romanian coach.

Ilie, who is clearly not up to date on Hoddle's preferred playing style, added: "I am certain we can impose our game against the English. As always they will be very physical."

"We are always very technical. The opposition of styles can be favourable to us, we can make our qualification assured and I think we can then go far."

Romania do have a considerable advantage over England in that they have already defeated Colombia and have only the impoverished Tunisians to come. A draw will suit them.

England want to win, though in some respects, it makes little difference. Assuming Colombia beat Tunisia in Montpellier this evening, and Romania do so in St-Denis on Friday, England will still need to take at least a point from Colombia in Lens on Friday regardless of today's result.

This is because should England beat Romania and lose to Colombia, and everybody beats Tunisia, it will come down to goal difference. If that is equal everyone draws lots in which case we discover whether Glenn Hoddle is, as some of his detractors and supporters claim, a 'lucky' manager.

Meanwhile, Hoddle's employers will be keeping in touch with events around the Place du Capitole and the appropriately named Place St Georges.

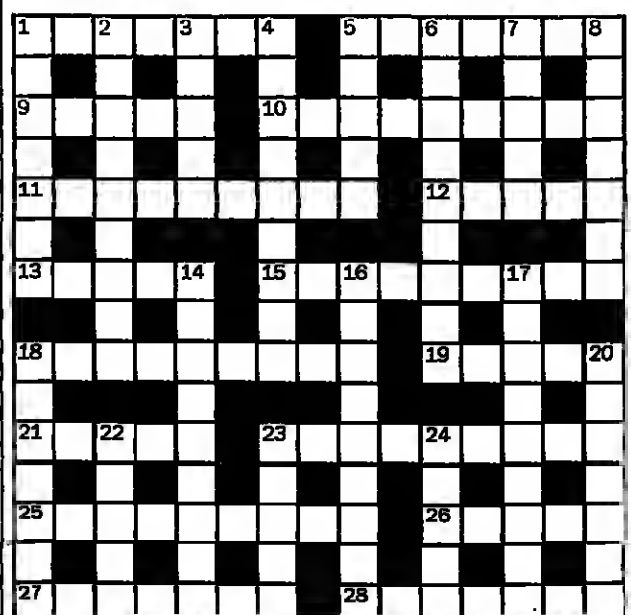
After Marseille the FA are desperate to avoid further hooligan problems and are hoping the combination of tighter licensing laws, a small Romanian support and a less aggressive local youth will reduce the opportunities and desire for a scrap. On and off the pitch there is a lot at stake today.

ENGLAND (probable): Seaman; Southgate or G. Hoddle, Pickers, Campbell, Anderson, Ince, S. Hoiles, Buxey, Le Saux, Sheeringham, Shearer.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 2643, Monday 22 June

By Portia



- ACROSS**
- 1 Rotten meal? (4,3)
 - 5 Conceal extra inside container (5,2)
 - 9 Sounds like bay in France (5)
 - 10 Grip? (6,3)
 - 11 Usually involves learning English (2,7)
 - 12 Run after hack to get supplement (5)
 - 13 Rock-snake soldier found in equipment (5)
 - 15 He broadcasts article on foreign monarch (9)
 - 18 Anxious to be firm with journalist (9)
 - 19 Locates names, we're told (5)
 - 21 Better to get in front of one key issue (5)
 - 23 Light ballad? (5,4)
 - 25 Place was profitable towards end (3,4,2)
 - 26 Excuse a politician who's short with individual (5)

- DOWN**
- 1 Blunder into rustic English poet (7)
 - 2 German garrison distribute stuff (9)
 - 3 Obligation is accepted by association (3-2)
 - 4 Prove so far to be over confident (9)
 - 5 Number left without regret for causing pain (5)
 - 6 I note several outside are second-hand (9)
 - 7 Violent attack seized bachelor (5)
 - 8 Power press contains one gramme of crude metal (3-4)
 - 14 Channel worker is cutting (9)
 - 16 Could start on a door we'd made of timber (9)
 - 17 Religion's system of belief (9)
 - 18 Tom facing power cut is without tool (4-3)
 - 20 Indicate initial doubt to youth leader (7)
 - 22 Ancient city depicted by particular artist (5)
 - 23 Daughter's acting in play now (5)
 - 24 The Athenians hang on to open country (5)

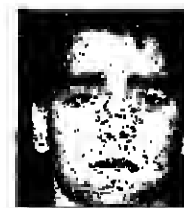
The key confrontations

ALAN SHEARER V LIVIU CIOBOTARIU

GARY NEVILLE V ADRIAN ILIE



(Newcastle, age 27, caps 41)



(National Bucharest, 27, 5)



(Manchester Utd, 23, 27)



(Valencia, 24, 21)

THIS SHOULD be no contest. Shearer is one of the best strikers in the World Cup. Ciobotariu is only playing because Daniel Prodan is injured. However, Ciobotariu will be helped by Romania's deep defending with Gheorghe Popescu, a better defender than Tottenham fans will remember, covering for him. Physically strong - he is two inches taller and half-a-stone heavier than Shearer - Ciobotariu also has a good positional sense. Shearer, however, should be quicker in thought and deed. With the refereeing crack-down further tilting the balance towards him, Shearer will be looking for his 15th goal in 18 internationals.

GLENN HODDLE will need to have his selection spot-on on the right side of defence as Adrian Ilie is a genuinely dangerous predator. As his goal against Colombia demonstrated, he is quick, nimble and a good finisher. Expensively acquired from Galatasaray by Valencia mid-way through last season 'the Cobra' made an instant impact on La Liga. If, as expected, Gareth Southgate fails to recover from his ankle injury then Manchester United's Gary Neville, who is more comfortable out wide, is the likely replacement. An alternative is Arsenal's Martin Keown, the best marker of the three.



(Liverpool, 30, 40)



(Galatasaray, 33, 112)



(Chelsea, 29, 26)



(Chelsea, 30, 69)

TWO CONTRASTING, but influential, players. Hagi, once billed the "Maradona of the Carpathians" is past his best and was a peripheral figure against Colombia. Yet he remains a sublime ball-player and, if motivated by the occasion, could trouble England. Hoddle will certainly remind his team of the dangers involved in conceding free-kicks on the edge of the area. While Hagi spends much of his game at walking pace Ince is always busy. A more rounded player since his time in Italy he still relishes a bone-jarring tackle but has better discipline. Makes telling forward runs such as the one which led to Paul Scholes' goal against Tunisia.

THE UNWRITTEN rule of this World Cup seems to be that every match must have at least one Chelsea player - this game has two. They are in direct opposition and, said Le Saux last week, they are very much looking forward to the contest. Both are regarded as stronger going forward than back though Petrescu, because of his coolness in front of goal, is the better attacker and Le Saux, for his greater courage, the more effective defender. With both players having spiky natures, the meeting could become confrontational rather than friendly if the game proves to be niggly.

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MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Glynis Griffiths

Naughty, naughty Fay!

Marvel at her manicure! See how she shops! Fay Weldon, Old Feminist Icon, has become an account-card-carrying member of the Harvey Nichols tendency

GIRLS! ENVISAGE Fay Weldon and me, if you can, ricocheting with excitement around Harvey Nichols. We have half an hour to spare before our manicure appointment – yes! manicure appointment! – in the beauty-salon. See us racing giddily from linens to perfumes, from designer womenswear to over-priced handbags.

Sisters, I wish I could tell you we aren't enjoying ourselves, but we are. Sisters, I wish I could tell you it isn't easy unpicking 25 years of feminism, but it is. See me purchase a Paul Smith T-shirt! Look at Fay – naughty, naughty Fay! – urging me on. "Have it! Have it!" See Fay buy a little Italian, fake animal-skin, very Scary Spice handbag (£110) with matching, very Scary Spice make-up bag (£70). See Fay pay. More, see Fay pay with her Harvey Nichols account card. Fay! A Harvey Nichols Account Card! You're an old hand at this! You're Tamara Beckwith in disguise! "I am! I am," Fay cries happily.

Girls, if you've ever wondered what happens to Old Feminist Icons, here's the answer. They become New Babes. They even feel sorry for poor little men. Oh pity the Poor Men, Fay has taken to saying of late. It started with a newspaper article she wrote last year and it's been rumbling on ever since. Alternatively, it could just be Fay being mischievous again. She's a terrible rascal. Still, I love her for it, almost as much as I love my Paul Smith T-shirt and my now beautifully-manicured, remarkably purple nails. Although not quite, of course.

Sisters, before you start feeling too betrayed, let me help you get the measure of Fay. OK, she can come out with a lot of tosh at times – pity the poor men indeed! – but that doesn't make her any less of a na-

tional treasure. Or less of a serious figure. She's said a lot of very important things over the years, and still says a lot of important things. Don't forget it! Plus, readers, she is just such ludicrous fun to be with.

Our manicure appointments are for 3.30pm. I'm not too sure how this manicure business came about, actually. I think it's just that when we had our first conversation on the phone, she said she needed her nails done, so I said: "Ohhh, I'll have some of that too. Yes, please!"

We first meet at 1pm, in the super-smart Fifth Floor Restaurant. I confess that I have never been to Harvey Nicks before. "No!" exclaims Fay in disbelief. However, I continue, I do appreciate this is quite a very glamorous place and, as such, you must appreciate that if

someone like Lulu, say, turns up, I'll have no choice but to tip you off your chair. She laughs one of her soft, fluffy, easy, laughs. She has, as it turns out, nothing to worry about.



THE
DEBORAH
ROSS
INTERVIEW

The only other person of note here today seems to be Thora Hurd, who is quietly eating in a corner while quietly getting even older; if such a thing were possible.

Actually, it's hard to imagine Fay being out-glamourpussed by anyone, even Lulu. She's 66 and utterly beautiful. Soft white skin. Soft blue eyes. Soft plump arms. Soft blonde hair. A splendid ledge of bosom. She's been BHT-ed, yes, but why not? "Nature is not on the older woman's side. It does not behave any woman over 45 to worship nature or approve of anything because it's natural. Why side with the enemy?"

I say I'm nervous about our appointment in the beauty salon. Beauty consultants terrify me. Indeed, over the years, I've found it much easier to just keep doing my make-

up as first copied from a diagram in *Jackie* magazine back in 1974. Fay is sympathetic. "I was brought up with a smudge of blue, until such time as I realised it was not only vulgar and crude, but also did nothing for one's appearance." She goes on to recommend a girl called Ginny, who works on the Clarins counter at Harrods. "She always gives a very good assessment, I find."

She adds that Harrods is another excellent place for a manicure. "My hands are terrible. Too much dishwater over the years. But at Harrods they're so accustomed to women who muck out horses, mine are nothing compared to theirs." Fay has a good line on everything.

Some people, I know, are not such huge fans. They say Fay is not really serious. She's just a jumped-

up copywriter, an entertainer with an eye for a good gimmick. In some ways, they're right. She is entertaining. She does have an eye for a good gimmick. She was once a copywriter. It was Fay who, famously, coined "Go To Work On An Egg" for the Egg Marketing Board. Less famously, she also thought up Swoop as the name for the birdfood. "And I'm really rather proud of that, too." So, yes, she is all these things. But she's also a great deal more, besides.

Ever since her first novel, *The First Woman's Joke*, was published in 1966, she's been out there, making mischief and subverting the received wisdom. There have been some 30 books since – including *Lives and Loves of a She Devil* and *The Cloning of Joanna May* – plus a number of plays and TV adaptations. Her subject – the gender battlefield explored as a kind of black comedy – quickly became her own.

Yes, her men were always hateful – vain, cruel, idle, selfish. And Continued on page eight

INSIDE	Letters	2	Obituaries	6-7	Arts	11	Listings	21-22	NETWORK INCLUDING APPOINTMENTS
	Leaders	3	Features	8-9	On Air	12	Radio, Satellite, TV	23	
	Comment	4-5	Private Lives	10	Network	13-15	Today's TV	24	

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Let's all blame Mrs Thatcher

IT'S COMING home, it's coming home. Probably rather sooner than we would have hoped, football's coming home.

If it's not the ruthless Romanians, it will be the niggly Nigerians or the French fanny-merchants or those Brazilians, cynically deploying their superior ball skills. We cling to the fantasy as if believing will somehow bring it closer, but, deep down, we know that, soon or later, some twinkle-toed foreigner is going to tango his way through our lads and the dream will be over.

Are we ready for this moment? For any country, it would be difficult; for us, now the world's most sensitive and emotionally vulnerable nation, it could signal a wholesale psychic collapse. There will be rage, confusion,



TERENCE BLACKER

England's defeat will signal wholesale psychic collapse

public weeping. Huge seismic shifts in political attitudes will take place. Families will fall apart. Tearful, red-eyed gangs will roam the streets, desperate to express their pain with bottle, boot or fist. Those who can't find a convenient target will simply beat themselves up.

None of this is necessary, so long as we are prepared for the worst and know, precisely and in advance, why the unthinkable has happened.

1. We gave the world this game and what did they do? They changed it.

Those sneaky little tricks, backheels and bicycle kicks and Blanco Bounces and triangular passes that you can't even see on the action replay, are all very well in their place - on a beach, in a bar, barefooted kids playing kickabout with a coconut between the grass huts - but on the pitch, in the greatest tournament in the world? Surely not.

Our lads may be left tackling thin air or sitting on their arses facing the wrong way but, at the end of the day, they will be the true winners. They played football the way it was meant to be played.

2. We gave the world this game and what did they do? They transformed it into a military exercise, cynically

introducing tactics, formations, teamwork, the joyless, teutonic efficiency of the parade-ground into the free-flowing game that we invented. They may have scored more goals than us but, in a deeper, aesthetic sense, we were victorious.

3. Mind you, they'll do anything to bring on a footballer, these so-called smaller nations. You know how they manage those bandy-legged runs? They take young footballers away from their villages and remove a small bone from the back of their knees which later in life enables them to do things our lads would rupture themselves even thinking about. Fair enough, if that's your attitude to the game, but it's just not part of our culture.

4. To be fair, our lads did very well considering they had been transported to a foreign country with inferior cookery, appalling weather, a poor disciplinary record when it comes to sexual morality, not to mention a habit of staying up well into the night discussing life, love, freedom and other things which simply keep our lads awake with worry.

5. It may be down to that moment when Dana International won the Eurovision Song Contest. Once we thought we knew where we were - naïf competition, being held, hilariously, in Birmingham, loads of dodgy foreigners with silly haircuts and platform soles and ghastly songs that we could laugh at in an affectionate, ironic way. What happens? The gorgeous, curvy representative of a country we never thought was in Europe not only wins but turns out to be a hoke. We're on shifting sands, lads, and you don't win World Cups on shifting sands.

6. What the chattering classes and *bien pensants* of north London refuse to recognize is that it all started going wrong in the let-it-all-hang-out Sixties.

Once that sense of duty, self-discipline and respect for parents had given way to a wishy-washy, "The Kids are Alright" liberalism, then the next generation was doomed to a wasteland of beer, cigarettes and late-night trysts with bar-girls in lavatories. A direct cultural line stretches from Gazza's friend Five Belles back to Germaine Greer posing for *Suck* magazine with her legs behind her ears.

7. When did hooliganism become fashionable, and route one football, and getting caught in possession of the ball? When, in fact, did everything start going wrong? You've got it, Thatcher - let's all blame Thatcher.

Miles Kingston is on holiday



In the first of a series of photographs this week on the National Trust for Scotland, a tour bus passes the Trust's HQ at Charlotte Square, Edinburgh

Tom Pistor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Surgeons' awards

Sir: Frank Dobson is entirely right to question the General Medical Council's decision in the Bristol heart surgeons case. The president of the Royal College of Surgeons is wrong in supporting the GMC penalties and the retention of merit awards by the doctors involved ("Anger at call to heart surgeon", 20 June).

How is it logical that a heart surgeon is stopped from operating on 17-year-olds but can do so after their eighteenth birthday?

How can the President of the Royal College of Surgeons defend doctors struck off by the General Medical Council retaining bonuses of £40,000 for life on top of a salary of £58,000.

But then merit awards, already discredited because of sex and race bias, are given mainly by other senior consultants, for life. To remove one would set a precedent. Besides, the award committee state "they are not intended - nor should they be seen - as a measure of the quality of treatment afforded to individual patients".

I was always proud to be part of a profession that stood up for patients but I am ashamed at the total lack of humility shown by the response of the President of the Royal College of Surgeons and other members of the medical establishment. They do not speak for all doctors. They certainly do not speak for patients.

The whole medical profession has to take collective responsibility for what has happened. We must apply the test - would I want my family seen by these doctors? If it is not good enough for us, it certainly is not good enough for our patients.

Merit awards, which will cost the NHS nearly £1bn in the next five years, should be based on true merit - quality of service to patients and commitment to the NHS.

Dr SAM EVERINGTON
London E3

The writer is a member of the British Medical Association council

Sir: Frank Dobson has wasted no time in adopting the Prime Minister's example of government by tabloid headline. To state that all three Bristol surgeons should have been struck off on the same day as the Government, quite rightly, announced a public enquiry on the matter is tantamount to saying, "Don't confuse me with the facts - I have made up my mind."

JOHN CHARMAN
London SW1

Minimum wage

Sir: Far from being "theory dressed up in statistical mumbo-jumbo" (leading article, 19 June), the formula for the nation minimum wage proposed by Unison, T&GW and other leading unions is the only way to ensure that low-paid workers benefit from the full fruits of economic growth. The formula ties the wages of low-paid workers to the general movement of wages, and promotes social cohesion and social inclusion.

Only 6 per cent of all workers would benefit from a minimum wage

set arbitrarily at £3.60, while around 20 per cent would be better off earning half median male earnings (worth £4.60 an hour) as proposed by the unions.

By refusing to agree a formula, and by setting the amount at such a low level, the Government has failed to deliver its promise to end poverty pay.

LIZ DAVIS
London N1

Sir: Why is arguing for a half of the median male wage "theory" (leading article, 19 June)? Are you suggesting that God has a view coincident with that of the unions? How do you know? Have you had a revelation? Or are you convinced by the argument of liberation theology that God is on the side of the poor?

Not at all. You are being rude about an opinion expressed by those with whom you disagree, and you call it "theory". Why "theory"? Why not call an idea from which you dissent and which you suspect of being dressed up in statistical mumbo-jumbo "journalism"? The Rev Dr PAUL P J SHEPPY
Barnoldswick, Lancashire

Football jobs

Sir: There is no hope of ever changing the yobbish and violent nature of the football thugs while the likes of Helen Maclean (Letters, 19 June) assert that these hooligans have been failed by the education system and that their "self-chosen crusade" is "brave, by their own lights" because they are defending the "honour" of their country.

In all my years of teaching, as far as I am aware, not one of my pupils - all with learning difficulties - ever resorted to becoming a violent thug because of feelings of inadequacy and in order to "win" at something.

Yes, we do live in a selfish society and it is not easy for the "unsuccessful" but millions of these people struggle on in a decent and responsible manner. These thugs sicken and embarrass all decent and hardworking people. Their behaviour is a stain on our national pride.

Mrs N CLEMENTS
Ilford, Essex

Sir: Should we not congratulate ourselves for having such brilliant leaders? Who else could have thought of it? Yes, have the football hooligans sacked - make them unemployable - so that they and their dependants can become a burden on society and have even more free time in which to cause mayhem.

JACK SANTACROSS
Wembley Park, Middlesex

Father of Brasilia

Sir: I read with interest Nonie Niesewand's judiciously balanced tribute to Lucio Costa (Obituary, 17 June) but there are four problems.

First, the satellite cities she mentions around Brasilia by no means sprang up in the 1990s. They were started, in the 1950s, by building workers as typical squatter housing for themselves. They needed services, of course: shops,

hairs, restaurants, clubs, cinemas and so on. These were rather scarce in Brasilia itself so residents, seeking a night out from the sterile city, would go to one of the satellites, where they could enjoy themselves.

Secondly whilst the first generation, uprooted from Rio, absolutely loathed the place their children, at least those now teaching planning at the university, think it is truly a model city.

Third, it was built as a city for automobiles but since Brazil has very little oil, they have to be run on "alcohol" distilled, expensively, from sugar cane, so great use is made of public transport.

Fourth, and most controversial of all, who actually designed it? I was introduced to Costa early in 1969. He was still working at the ministry in Rio which he and others, including Niemeyer, had designed with Le Corbusier as consultant. I had been, the previous day, on a trip to Brasilia and found an English-speaking taxi-driver. After five minutes or so he suggested that, given my questions, I was probably an architect and gave me his card. The driver's name was Jeanneret and he claimed to have an architect cousin - none other than Charles Edward Le Corbusier himself. What is more he claimed that Brasilia was designed by Le Corbusier: that all Costa did was draw it.

So of course I asked Costa, an excessively modest man, and his response was: "Yes, that's right!"

Of course we shall never know. The ideas surely are Corbusean but whether he conceived the "butterfly" plan may be a rather different matter.

Professor GEOFFREY BROADBENT
Southsea, Hampshire

Gays and the law

Sir: I have recently lost my (male) partner after a happy relationship of 36 years.

Everything we built together as a couple was taken away immediately after his death: pensions disappeared and I faced a huge tax bill - including on a half share of our house, which we owned jointly - because the law did not recognise us as partners.

Efforts to reduce the age of consent (leading article, 20 June) and secure equal rights for gay people in the armed forces are laudable, but all these issues will fall into place once full partner recognition is accorded to gay people. This also applies to many unmarried heterosexual partnerships.

LUIS CANTAZARES
London SW5

Sir: Cameron Docherty (Film, 18 June) argues that Anne Heche should have stayed in the closet because we cannot believe her character is genuinely attracted to the character played by Harrison Ford (a man - damn!). Does this mean, for instance, that Woody Allen should never be involved with a woman his own age on screen because we all know Soon Yi is much younger? Should he worry about playing opposite non-Koreans?

If an actor's real-life relationships are relevant to the plausibility of a performance, why is the sex of the significant other the only relevant factor?

HELEN DEWITT
London SE16

A price-tag on truth

Sir: Max Clifford is right to warn those who sell their stories that their reputations will for ever be at risk. ("Even a child killer should be able to sell her story", 18 June) He is wrong to suggest the market place is the best regulator of press morals.

The newspaper business is about making money and a chequebook has no morals. If newspapers see it as their function to hand out rough justice every day, they must be prepared to take it. But they have decreed that the Press Complaints Commission they pay to regulate the industry cannot levy a tax on profits when a newspaper breaches the ethical code drawn up by the industry.

Until such breaches come with a price-tag the marketplace will remain littered with people whose lives have been damaged by the cavalier attitude of the press to human tragedy. Our clients are those who fall foul of the media. They can testify to the lasting harm caused when papers turn with spiteful glee on those who take cheques from their rivals.

Buying exclusive rights is the antithesis of press freedom. Suggest that the practice be outlawed and the industry invokes the spirit of Wilkes. The same cry goes up if anyone has the temerity to say that the innocent victims of their circulation wars should be compensated.

If information is in the public interest it should not have a price-tag - and it should be the press who are reminding us, not Louise Woodward.

MIKE JEMPSON
Executive Director
PressWise
Bristol

The cost of coal

Sir: I was surprised by David Brewer's contention (Letter, 16 June) that electricity from coal-fired power stations is cheaper than from gas-fired.

The Natural Gas Supply Association says: "Gas combined-cycle electric generation is 45-50 per cent efficient, while coal generation efficiency levels hover around 30-35 per cent. Additionally, coal plants are one-third to twice as capital-intensive as gas plants, primarily because of higher construction and maintenance costs. Thus, even with the higher input price of gas, combined-cycle generators can often produce electricity at a fraction of the cost of coal facilities."

Further, Powergen's environmental performance data state that in 1996 the gas-fired plants generated 24.8 per cent of Powergen's electricity, but only 13 per cent of their carbon-dioxide and only 3.5 per cent of their nitrous oxides. Also, the gas-fired plants generated none of their 2,445 kilotonnes of ash, nor any of their 512 kilotonnes of sulphur dioxide. Gas seems to be a much cleaner fuel than coal.

Could it be that David Brewer is leaving the environmental, social, and health costs of coal out of his equations? Would that be because those costs are not borne by the members of the organisation he represents, the Confederation of United Kingdom Coal Producers? He calls for a "level playing field". I call for the regulator to give us a market in which the producers of each fuel bear the costs of cleaning up after themselves. Then we will see if there is a fuel that doesn't cost the earth.

TIM ELLIOT
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire

Mrs Blockit replies

Sir: Your Outlook column (18 June) claims credit for creating the nickname "Mrs Blockit" to describe my approach to mergers policy, explaining that I argued before the election that a bidder should demonstrate positive benefits for a merger before it could go ahead. You suggest this would have put paid to virtually all mergers and takeovers.

I am really pleased to have an explanation for something which has misled me: it is now clearer why you keep accusing me of contradictory behaviour.

I am afraid, though, that I did not and have not ever put forward that proposal. It was party policy at some point before my tenure of this post but was certainly not put forward by me. Indeed, although I am aware that some people in the party have taken that view, it is one I have never shared.

MARGARET BECKETT
President of the Board of Trade
Department of Trade and Industry
London SW1

IN BRIEF

Sir: Alan Pavein (Letter, 20 June) asks why the explosion in unwanted pregnancies in teenage girls has coincided with increased provision of sex education and subsidised contraception.

The answer is very simple: they are having more sex, earlier, as they are all over the western world. The question is, why the British record is so much worse than that of our European neighbours? The answer is that craven politicians and education authorities have stunted the provision of proper sex education in schools.

Mr Pavein and his attitudes are very much part of the problem.

PETER CERESOLE
London, SW14

Sir: A Cheshire correspondent (17 June) takes you to task for not knowing that Hartlepool is in "Cleveland", not Yorkshire. Please inform him that "Cleveland" was abolished two years ago. Hartlepool, as he also says, is actually in traditional County Durham and if confusion such as yours, his and countless other people's is to be avoided, we must ditch all newfangled concepts and, for all non-local government matters, return to the real counties of our birthright.

J M BRADFORD
Leeds, Yorkshire

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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The folly of breaking the cross-party accord

IN BRITISH history books, it is often the extended footnote which is more interesting than the main text. And so it is with the tale of Peter Temple-Morris, the Conservative MP for Leominster who yesterday completed his life's political journey and joined Labour. Never a minister, his dazzling white hair did not leave much of an after-image on the nation's television screens. But within Westminster's gothic walls, he was a player, albeit too long on the losing side. He plotted against Margaret Thatcher and for the European cause, and consistently advocated the compassionate, consensual Toryism which had been the centre of British political gravity and could now be again, under a different name. His former colleagues sneered predictably, wondering "how many times one man can leave a party". True, each stage of Mr Temple-Morris's transition has been spun out by the impresarios of New Labour. But they are able to extract so much coverage from successive stages of essentially the same story because Tory-to-Labour floor-crossings are so rare and tell us so much about New Labour's dominance and Tory irrelevance.

Which brings us to the ostensible cause of Mr Temple-Morris's final step - the Tories' break with the bipartisan consensus over Northern Ireland. Mr Temple-Morris has long been at odds with the strident Unionism of much of his former party, but the fact that Labour can attract recruits on this, of all issues, is vivid testimony to the extent of the change Tony Blair has wrought. This was the party once torn apart by arguments over whether the IRA were freedom fighters, which long contained its disagreements behind the oxymoronic policy of Irish "unity by consent". Now it is the party which has achieved a breakthrough which surely promises a future scarred by much less violence than the past 25 years.

And what is the Conservative party's response, as the legislation enacting the Good Friday Agreement goes through the House of Commons, and as the voters of Northern Ireland prepare to elect a new assembly? Along comes Andrew Mackay, the Tory spokesman, and tears up the cross-party accord which underpins the prospects of peace.

It is a tawdry spectacle, and if William Hague thinks this is the sort of foundation on which a Tory recovery can be built, we fervently hope he is wrong. Mind you, Mr Hague's views are hard to fathom. His faith in Mr Mackay was so great that he thought South Africa was the best place for him to be while the Good Friday Agreement was being negotiated.

Mr Mackay yesterday insisted that the Tories "wish



wherever possible to maintain a bipartisan approach to Northern Ireland", but an approach is either bipartisan or it is not. And, apart from one loose phrase in the Commons, from which the Prime Minister had to be rescued by the editor of Hansard, neither he nor the text of the agreement has ever said that weapons would physically have to be handed in for terrorist prisoners to qualify for early release.

This may look like a good populist point to score for an opposition desperate to get noticed, but it is not grown-up politics. It is, unfortunately, impossible to imagine even would-be ex-terrorists handing over their weapons. What matters, in the first instance, is that they

decide to stop using them. The process now moves on to the election of the assembly on Thursday. Sinn Féin's ambivalence on the question of IRA weapons means that it does not deserve the votes it will get, but it will get them, and then there is no question but that its representatives must renounce violence if they want to play a role in governing Northern Ireland.

The Tories' populist point-scoring has distracted attention from that vital point, and Mr Temple-Morris rightly described it as "inexcusable". It weakens the momentum of the peace process. Mr Hague has made a serious mistake, far greater than the carelessness in losing one of his MPs.

Should Labour be thankful for Zinoviev?

THE ZINOVIEV affair is about to be laid finally to rest. As we report today, the Foreign Office's chief historian has been granted access to the KGB's files in Russia, which will almost certainly confirm that the letter which helped destroy the first Labour government was cooked up by the British security services.

Generally, of course, mindless partisanship is a bad guide to government policy. But on this occasion Robin Cook can be forgiven for ordering an inquiry. Far more than the oppression of working people or the beastly treatment of trade unionists, the Zinoviev letter has animated the historical sense of grievance which binds the Labour Party together. It is because Labour thinks "we wuz robbed" at the 1924 election that the party so hates the *Daily Mail*, which published it, and the Tory party, which benefited from it.

But what if...? What if there had been no Zinoviev letter, no headline "Civil War Plot By Socialists' Masters. Moscow Orders To Our Reds"? What if Ramsay MacDonald had won the 1924 election and turned the first, minority Labour government into a majority one? Then there would have been no General Strike. What would have happened in the Recession is anybody's guess, although perhaps MacDonald would not have been panicked into betraying his party and forming the National Government. But then rearmament would have been even longer delayed and Britain would have lost the war.

Perhaps it is better for Labour's pride that the *Mail* and *M16* did conspire to stop it winning 74 years ago.

Trust our taps

ONE QUARTER of the people of England and Wales do not drink water from the tap. They filter it or boil it or drink bottled water. We suspect that the proportion might be even higher among readers of *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*, which broke this news yesterday. Now, we are prepared to make an exception for those in the South-west, who were subjected to large-scale aluminium poisoning a few years ago. But the rest of you are wasting time, energy and money. British water is among the purest in the world. It is only when it comes to getting rid of sewage that water companies have a dirty record. As for the taste argument that is fashionable in London, try this test: put three glasses, of bottled, filtered and tap water, in the fridge and conduct a blind tasting. Our research suggests tap water wins every time.

Hague should take Disraeli as a role model to deal with the New Whigs

THE GOOD news for William Hague is that he passes his first anniversary as Tory leader with a growing number of well-wishers. The bad news is that they are not, nor likely to become, Conservatives.

Hooked on the practice of self-mutilation, senior Tories were unlikely to let the occasion for modest celebration pass without finding a safe way into their own feet, and up popped Michael Heseltine to spoil the party by complaining about Mr Hague's Euroscepticism. This has at least made a change from right-wingers briefing covertly against their leader for his supposed laxity on moral and constitutional issues.

Meanwhile, there are sound reasons for non-Conservatives to wish the Opposition a speedy recovery - if not such a complete one that it returns to power in the foreseeable future. One can be supportive of Mr Blair and his desire to create a fairer, more meritocratic Britain, yet conclude that the lack of friction from a strong opposing party is not doing New Labour any favours. Good government demands sound opposition in order to scrutinise its behaviour and prevent it succumbing to the sin of arrogance.

In Scotland, this role is being filled by the SNP. Hence the sudden vigorous sleaze-busting operation that should have begun in the days of John Smith. In England and Wales, with the Lib Dems begging for the biscuit of electoral reform, there is little effective scrutiny of the Government.

The Conservatives have had an underwhelming first year in opposition, but Mr Hague has treated it as a learning curve. Given that he could not

expect to be the cynosure of all eyes in the early days of a government with an overwhelming mandate, he was wise to use this time to improve his party's muscle tone before trying any more demanding policy gymnastics.

Now the Tory leader is beginning to evolve policies that could point out a strain of New Labour vulnerabilities. The early plan of building up a set of three identifiable Tory themes - defence of the existing House of Lords, defence of the pound and defence of the United Kingdom in the face of devolution - has been dismissed as projecting too antiquated an image. It would also play to Mr Blair's strength as a modernizer by making the Tory Party seem afraid of change.

Instead, Mr Hague will set out to out-reform Labour's reforms by calling this autumn for an elected second chamber to replace the hereditary peers in the Lords. This is not the solution I would favour. It is far too likely to duplicate the functions of the Commons and fall into the clutches of the party machines. But tactically, it is a deft move by the Tories because it would emphasize the dangers that a nominated Upper House will become Blairized quango.

One of the weaknesses of Mr Blair's current spate of elevations to the Lords was that, with the exception of the usual dutiful appointments of trade unionists, party workers and a couple of council leaders, it was very male and very rich (consider Waheed Ali, Melvyn Bragg and the businessman Chris Haskins). To the spin doctors' horror, the Chancellor's friend Gavin Davies received a huge windfall from the Goldman Sachs flotation



ANNE MCELVOY
Mr Hague hopes to establish the Tories as the party of personal and direct democracy

the same week as the plutocratic peerages were announced, thus creating the impression that the real motto of New Labour might be Guizot's cynically bourgeois philosophy *Monsieurs, enrichissez-vous*.

Not that it is inherently undesirable for Labour's favourites to be well heeled. Certainly it is preferable to the days when anyone who had either become wealthy or had ambitions to do so felt bound to ditch the high-tax, high-enemy party of the 1980s. But these alliances, while generously tolerated in economic good times, can irritate if the economic situation worsens, as it well might.

New Labour looks more and more like a modern Whig party, allied to the interests of the City (the Bank of England was a Whig creation), more at ease with the rich and famous than the commonality.

I strongly suspect that the minimum wage row is a substitute for this

broader conflict at the heart of New Labour about its identity.

Whigs have their good side - confidence, authority and a lack of the infuriating chippiness that was such a feature of the post-war Left. They could be a more genial Whiggish figure than the life-enhancing Derry Irvine, connoisseur of fine furnishings and good wines? Mr Blair, while he is too accomplished a politician to let it show through his populist mask is a natural Whig. He has far more in common with the possessors of wealth than the dispossessed.

The New Whigs share the tendency of their historical predecessors in extending their influence throughout the Establishment of the day. In so doing, the party becomes indistinguishable from the Establishment and thus vulnerable to opposition claims that it has become too distant from ordinary people. The appointment of Simon Lewis, a PR man with strong Labour links, to be the Queen's spin-doctor is the latest sign that a Royal Family, its confidence knocked by the aftermath of Diana's death, has become something of a client-state to the New Labour Establishment.

A second, and related Haguette theme is the promise to deliver more democratic procedures than the centralizing tendencies of New Labour. By allowing his party a primary on the Mayor for London, free of the kind of machinations New Labour may well embrace to fend off a resurrection of Ken Livingstone, Mr Hague hopes to establish the Conservatives as the party of greater personal and direct democracy than that afforded by Mr Blair.

The greatest weakness of Mr Hague's position remains, however, that people simply do not know who he is. Those bravura performances in the House against Mr Blair are worth very little outside the Westminster belt, because Parliament is becoming less important in the political process. The traditional Tory position is to lament this. But these changes and so does the political arena. Mr Hague's next task is to project himself beyond the chamber without looking a clown. This, as his baseball cap experiment and Blackpool roller-coaster ride showed, is not as easy as it sounds.

In his restoration plans, he has two great home-grown models in Peel and Disraeli. The former's administrative skills and common sense should inspire him in modernizing his party's structure. But he must also avoid appearing to be merely calculating in his reforms: Peel was described as having "a smile like the glitter of a brass coffin". The leader of a vanquished party must retain the streak of visionary Romanticism and opportunism married so potently by Disraeli.

Having achieved this elusive blend of characteristics, he must go on to unite two very different traditions in his party - the progressive and flexible with the traditionalist and rigid - and harness their respective energies for the good of his cause. It is a stiff challenge, but not an impossible one for a gifted and determined politician. If Mr Hague needs more inspiration in such an undertaking than the 19th century can deliver, he can always look at the great reformer opposite him at the Dispatch Box.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is particularly important for it to be understood that actions may be legal without being morally right or socially desirable."
Dr George Carey on the move to lower the age of consent for homosexual relations.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"All intellectual improvement arises from leisure"
Samuel Johnson, English author

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Hong Kong Standard
Early on, the White House was looking at a number of possible agreements that could be announced with great fanfare at the end of the summit. Most of these were in the strategic area - lifting or easing sanctions imposed in the wake of the Tiananmen Square crackdown and maybe even greater military co-operation. But it appears increasingly certain that such agreements will be impossible in the current Washington atmosphere.

Washington Post
Clinton's China trip is being scripted around a set of fictions. He joins the Chinese in manipulating himself for their purposes, which he mistakes as identical to his own. The most important fiction coming from the Clinton camp is that this trip is about changing the values and politics of China. In fact, the idea is to get the American public at large to accept the anodyne, uncritical view of China now firmly entrenched in the ranks of

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Predicted outcomes of President Clinton's visit to China

American business leaders and academic specialists.

The Straits Times, Singapore
Ironically, in trying to move beyond Tiananmen, the welcoming

ceremony for President Clinton will take place at the edge of the square, with its uncomfortable symbolism for Americans still fixated on the 1989 killing of pro-democracy

protesters there. Still, in a summit that depends on symbols, both sides hope that the ultimate one may be of Mr Clinton bringing a superpower sheen and legitimacy to the meeting as the leader of a country that has surpassed all in wealth, technology, military capability and cultural dominance.

The South China Morning Post
This summit is likely to yield very little of substance. The row the Republicans have whipped

up over allegations that the White House helped a donor to its campaign funds to transfer missile secrets to the mainland has made it politically impossible to proceed with the original plan to lift most remaining post-Tiananmen sanctions in return for further promises from Beijing on proliferation. That means the tangible achievements that come out of this summit are likely to be far less than the international jockeying for position that has preceded it.

PANDORA

TONIGHT'S VOTE in the Commons on the age of consent for homosexuals could prove to be a bit of drag. It is likely that voting will take place between 8pm and 10pm - during the England-Romania game. The play-off between the two events could prove an interesting dilemma for some MPs, perhaps wrestling with views expressed in their constituency mailbags. The real man will, of course, be in the Chamber and not in the bar.

MANCHESTER'S education authority took a bashing last week. Truancy, exclusions and budget deficit are running at a high level while standards of achievement are low, concludes a report by the Office for Standards in Education. Though the report acknowledges the will for improvement, there is much to be done; as one parent said in *The Independent* last week: "The council needs a 'kick up the rear'." Could this all have been avoided if Manchester's politicians had listened to one of the city's most famous sons, Morrissey (below right)? Back in the Eighties, the miserable wordsmith warned: "Belligrent ghoul / Run Manchester schools / Spineless swines / Cement minds." Harsh words maybe, but there could be a place for "Mor" as a layman examiner on the Ofsted team.

PANDORA RECENTLY reported on an odd memo listing words outlawed by Evening Standard editor Max Hastings. The list included such run-of-the-mill words as "famous", "insisted", "joke", and "lounge". It all seemed to be a bit of a leg-pull. Not so, Hastings indicated when Pandora humped into him at the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Society of Literature last week. "I'm sure you have the same sort of list," he remarked affably. We did not know whether this was one of Max's "famous jokes". Later, from the comfort of his lounge (sorry, drawing room) he "insisted" it wasn't.

FRANK DOBSON has been talking a lot lately about "striking off" doctors. But it was the idea of "taking off" that he was trying to promote in an exclusive interview given to his local paper, the *Ham & High*. In the interview, published last Friday, the Secretary of State for Health suggests that obtaining an operation should be as easy as booking a flight.

"Most people are now used to the idea that you could find the nearest telephone box and if you had a credit

card you could ring any airline and book a seat... That's the approach I would like to see." Not surprisingly, Dobson's comments have come in for some stick. A spokesman from London Health Emergency, the capital's largest NHS pressure group responded tartly: "That is all very nice, but if the plane is full you cannot get a ticket." Quite. At least Dobson will have a new catchphrase for saving the NHS: rather than the favourite "like turning around a supertanker", he could try "Fly me, I'm Frankie."

NOTWITHSTANDING anything else Bill Clinton may or may not have given Monica Lewinsky, his present to her of Walt Whitman's erotic poetry, Leaves of Grass, must have been appreciated. Lewinsky seems to have had an affinity for the written word from an early age. A recently discovered poem, written when she was 11 years old, shows that she was not averse to sensual suggestion either. Appearing in the American literary quarterly *Open City*, the poem reads: "I am a pizza / I can be a delicious lunch, dinner / or breakfast, if you're weird / I have a great deal of toppings on me / I am a round flat piece of dough / with lots of toppings / I make your mouth water / I'm very good to eat but I'm / fattening / I am a month's best friend / I make you say 'Mmm Yum' / I am a pizza." That's one with extra cheese, please.



STAYING WITH all matters presidential, Clinton's forthcoming visit to China has been the subject of much debate. Republican National Committee co-chair Patricia Harrison has been agonising on American television over the etiquette of whether or not the president should visit Tiananmen Square. In her interview on C-Span's *Washington Journal* she says firmly: "This president should really stand up as the leader of the Free World and not let Chinese communists dictate to him where and when he is going to meet." Facing up to the fact that the trip is happening, Harrison added: "I think the only thing we can insist upon is that he 'at least have some moral turpitude' by avoiding Tiananmen Square. I think some people need to look at their history books," she added. Or perhaps, as the *Washington Post* suggests, Harrison might want to check out her dictionary.

A first taste of unelected power



MICHAEL BROWN

Back to the Palace of Westminster, and I've discovered that everyone wants to know me

AT 1.30AM on 2 May 1997 my life as a politician ended after 18 years and I vowed I would never enter the Palace of Westminster again.

I was 46 years old and had spent most of my career working in Parliament. I had no professional qualifications, couldn't run a wheelbarrow and was, in the eyes of friends, foes and journalists, unemployable.

Three weeks after the election, my fellow ex-colleague, David Evans, the defeated MP for Hatfield, wrote to me offering me the opportunity to drum up new business for his industrial cleaning company on a commission basis, and I jumped at the chance. So, for the past year, I have been a lavatory cleaner and janitor, to the amusement of Conservative MPs.

Most of them dumped me after the election. During the weekend after polling day I did receive a number of phone calls of commiseration but, in the main, they were from fellow defeated members. The honourable exceptions were David Davis, Edward Leigh and Patrick McLoughlin.

I also received about two dozen generous letters from re-elected

Tory MPs. Baroness Thatcher wrote a personal letter, dated 2 May. Ann Widdecombe, typically, sent me one of the kindest letters I have ever received. John Major sent me a cyclo-styled letter in July. I have a list of these letters in my inside pocket, at all times, when I sit in the press gallery of the House of Commons.

One rainy night, six weeks ago,

my flat buzzer rang. A young city slicker announced he was my local Tory candidate. Little did he know how much a debt I would subsequently owe to him. This was the first time I had ever been canvassed. For the previous 20 years I had always been on the other side of the front door kicking the in-sults. I wrote up the story of this new experience in *The Independent*. Three weeks later I am now sitting in the Press Gallery writing political sketches for the newspaper.

Since then, the creeping and crawling has got into full swing. To most Tory MPs I had died but have now been resurrected in circumstances to my advantage and their disadvantage. My telephone, which has remained silent for nearly a year, is now overheard as word spreads around the Tory members that I am back to haunt them. The postman, who previously called on me once a week, now visits my address daily. After having no invitations to fill up my mantelpiece, I can now lunch and dine for Britain.

I have already had my first hunch with a new member of the Shadow Cabinet who last spoke to me before

the General Election. I bumped into Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, three days ago at a champagne reception. Oh how delighted in reminding him that I had not seen him for about a year! (Maude is now fixed at the Reform Club, shortly.)

The sweetness of revenge - truly a dish best eaten when, a year later, it is so cold it's almost frozen - is something I savour every second of the day.

Now even the Labour Party is getting in on the act as they realise the dangers and advantages of making their peace with me.

The sweetest moment was an afternoon when Gordon Brown made a high-profile statement on public expenditure. Little me, who still cannot add up, had the opportunity of being spun by Charlie Wheeler outside the Press Gallery when the Chancellor sat down. What I would give to show this scene to the Tory MPs sitting downstairs in the Chamber.

But it has not all been plain sailing. As a new and inexperienced journalist I am just beginning to bump into the victims of my politi-

cal sketch. Some of them fight back and have caused me my fair share of embarrassment. I have received my first threat of libel, from a Labour MP John Whittingdale, junior Treasury spokesman on the Tory side, has upbraided me for being hard on Francis Maude.

My most frightening encounter occurred two nights ago as I was having a drink with Elliot Morley, the Fisheries Minister. Into my view came the slight-but-menacing figure of the Foreign Secretary who had just read my column giving the thumbs down to his department.

Fortunately, Robin Cook is a professional politician, has a good sense of humour and let me off with a caution. But I did feel shame-faced and had to stop myself from apologising. I wouldn't have been able to look my new colleagues in the eye if they heard this story in the Press Gallery bar.

It's clear I'm still a rookie and the jury is out on whether I can really back it.

Michael Brown's parliamentary sketch will be in the *Independent* tomorrow.

Why we don't always know we're being racist

TODAY IS Windrush Day. Unless you've failed to read a newspaper or see any TV at all for the past few weeks, you will know that last night marked the fiftieth anniversary of the landing of the ship that symbolises the start of the post-war migration that has changed Britain almost beyond recognition; and that the next day the men and women who founded the modern black community set foot on British soil.

By the way, let's clear up one small inconsistency. Was it 500 or 492? It was, in fact, 500, but there were (it is believed by those who were there) eight stowaways. The cyposian Lord Kitchener recalls looking over the rail of the ship and seeing some of them swimming for dear life through the muddy brown waters of Tilbury harbour; he says he hoped the alligators didn't get them, as that colour water normally signified hostile animal life in the Caribbean.

The alligators didn't show up, but the sharks did. The Windrush generation survived Teddy-boy assaults, Rachmanism, Powellism, riots, crime, three major recessions and countless humiliations with a grace and absence of bitterness that defies belief. They protected their children against the worst excesses of racism for many years, until those children could cope for themselves. But even their own accounts of the racism they faced may be incomplete, for one reason: in many cases they may never have realised they were being discriminated against.

It is the bane of all those who write legislation to guard against discrimination on the basis of race, gender or disability. What happens if the discrimination is so subtle that the victim does not realise what is going on?

Some years ago, as part of a TV investigation, we sent two students



TREVOR PHILLIPS

Most racism does not consist of gross acts of discrimination or verbal abuse

— one black, one white — looking for jobs. The inevitable happened; the black student was rejected seven times out of 10 when the white candidate was offered an interview, or even a job. Again and again, the young black man would come out of an encounter convinced the potential employer was genuinely nice, grateful, and that there had been no discrimination. And you could see why — the smiles looked warm, the language comforting. But they hid the truth: the young man, by no means a nervous type, was so shattered by the experience that he had to offer him counselling.

But there is another side to this story. Do people who discriminate always know that they're doing it?

On the *Today* programme last week, John Humphrys asked with an air of astonishment: "But surely people know when they're being racist?" It's a reasonable question, to which the answer is certainly "no".

Most racism does not consist of gross acts of discrimination or verbal abuse, though heaven knows there's enough of that: the Policy

Studies Institute reckoned that one in eight black or Asian people experienced some kind of racial assault in a single year. But over and beyond that kind of horror lies a sea of petty thoughtless remarks and actions that daily humiliate black people.

This was so from the start. The Reverend Sybil Phoenix recalls that when she first came to England in the Fifties, she found a home in a converted coal cellar, for which she was grateful. The kitchen was under a grating, so that, when she cooked her first Christmas dinner, she had to put up an umbrella over the stove to prevent the rain coming in. Her fellow church members said, with tears in their eyes, how sorry they were — but that none of them could house her because their neighbours might not like it. Another landlady made her black tenants leave home early and come back late so that no-one would notice them; on one occasion, she made Rev Phoenix wait in the road because she had friends at home. And these people thought they were being nice; and they were to some extent being courteous.

Today, we are more careful about our language, and such behaviour towards a black family would be next to unthinkable. Yet we heard last week of new outrages to add to the long list that were visited on the family of Stephen Lawrence.

What is most disheartening is that the police officers who failed the Lawrence case will never be persuaded that their actions stemmed from any kind of racial bias. Carelessness, incompetence, neglect even; but they are clearly baffled by the suggestion that their behaviour might have been affected in any way by the colour of the victim.

From the outside and with hindsight, it is hard to draw any other conclusion, but the hardest task we



Passengers on the Windrush, at Tilbury: 50 years ago today

face is convincing the perpetrators — I mean the police, not the murderers — of their own unconscious prejudice. Otherwise, why should they not repeat their mistakes?

The Lawrence case is in itself a tragic echo of an earlier outrage against another group of black families from south-east London.

In January 1981, 13 black teenagers perished in a house fire after a birthday party in Deptford. The incident was serious enough, but there was little doubt that the reaction to it by the rest of British society led directly to the rage and frustration that triggered nationwide rioting four months later. I say reaction; what I mean is non-reaction.

First, the police treated the whole affair casually — the impression given was of yet another dispute among drug dealers that got out of hand. Just as in the Lawrence case, they started with the assumption that the children concerned had been up to no good. Under pressure to find a culprit, they interrogated the survivors remorselessly, including the all-night questioning of

an 11-year-old girl, to try to force an admission from her that the fire had been caused by a fight.

But the most spectacular example of the thoughtlessness that characterises British racism was the attitude of the authorities; that is to say, they ignored the Deptford tragedy. Ironically, at the same time, a similar fire had occurred in Dublin, in a nightclub. The Prime Minister sympathised publicly; the Queen sent a message of condolence. To date, none of the Deptford families has ever had any such recognition.

This week, the Home Secretary launches his new Race Relations Forum, and the Prince of Wales throws a reception in honour of the Windrush voyagers. There will be a great deal of chatter, and many fine speeches. Would it not be fitting, in the midst of all the celebratory talk, for everyone to take a minute's silence at these events to reflect on what we lost in Deptford in 1981? That could be the start of a badly needed healing process, and a recognition that Britain is prepared to repair the years of neglect.

THE INDEPENDENT

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US v Iran: the political challenge

IRAN is one of the oldest continuous civilisations in the world. The Islamic republic is at the centre of a region which includes countries that contain three quarters of the world's population, three quarters of the world's proven energy resources and 60 per cent of global GNP. These facts of life, and the critical role Iran plays in that region, make the question of US-Iran relations a topic of great interest and importance to this Secretary of State.

The United States established relations with Iran, then Persia, in 1856. For decades, our ties were limited but cordial. After the Second World War, America supported Iran in a bitter territorial dispute with the Soviet Union. And through the first decades of the Cold War, as part of a strategy intended to counter Soviet expansionism, the US supported the Shah's regime and allocated to it large quantities of military and economic assistance.

We did so because of a common strategic interest. We were concerned with an effort to contain the spread of total-

itarian influence across the globe. The exigencies of the Cold War also generated US policies and activities that were resented by many Iranians. In retrospect, it is possible to understand their reaction, but the Cold War is now over and it is time to put that period behind us.

After the forced departure of the Shah in 1979, Iran turned inward, in keeping with the Ayatollah Khomeini's slogan that we must become isolated in order to become independent. This trend was manifested most extremely and unacceptably in the seizure of hostages at the US Embassy.

Neither country has forgotten the past, but most Iranians, like most Americans, are now focused on the future. And clearly, it is possible now — if Iran so chooses — for it to be both fully independent and fully open to the world.

Last May nearly 70 per cent of Iran's people supported the election of Mohammad Khatami as President, demanding from the Iranian Government greater freedoms, a more civil society based on the rule of law, and a more moderate for-

PODIUM
MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

From a speech by the US Secretary of State to the Asia Society, New York

ign policy aimed at ending Iran's estrangement from the international community.

At the time, President Clinton welcomed this election. The depth of the demand for change was obvious. So, too, was the evident desire of Iranians for greater openness and more personal liberty.

Since taking office, President Khatami has responded

to the demands of the Iranian people by emphasising the importance of dialogue among nations and cultures, and by acknowledging the world's growing interdependence. He has said that the American Government deserves respect because it is a reflection of the great American people.

In past years, Iran's opposition to the Middle East peace process and to those willing to negotiate with Israel has been vitriolic and violent. The Islamic republic still refuses to recognise Israel, and its leaders continue to denounce Israel in inflammatory and unacceptable terms. In January, President Khatami publicly denounced terrorism and condemned the killing of innocent Israelis. He argued that terrorism was not only against Islam but also counterproductive to Iran's purposes. Iran, after all, has also been a victim of terrorism.

We view these developments with interest. However, these hopes must be balanced against the reality that Iran's support for terrorism has not yet ceased; serious violations of human rights persist; and its efforts to develop long-range

missiles and to acquire nuclear weapons continue.

The United States opposes any country selling or transferring to Iran materials and technologies that could be used to develop long-range missiles or weapons of mass destruction. Similarly, we oppose Iranian efforts to sponsor terrorism. Accordingly, our economic policies, including the export pipelines for Caspian oil and gas, remain unchanged.

We are ready to explore further ways to build mutual confidence and avoid misunderstandings. Iran should consider parallel steps. If such a process can be initiated and sustained in a way that addresses the concerns of both sides, then we in the United States can see the prospect of a very different relationship. As the wall of mistrust falls, we can develop with the Islamic republic a road map leading to normal relations.

Obviously two decades of mistrust cannot be erased overnight. The gap between us remains wide. But it is time to test the possibilities for bridging this gap.

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Shaukat Osman

SHAUKAT OSMAN was the most eminent literary and cultural figure of Bangladesh. Throughout his long career he fought tirelessly against religious obscurantism, fundamentalism, military authoritarianism and political corruption. He was a crusading spirit.

In the mid-Forties he wrote two novels which appropriated the hitherto largely unacknowledged life of the Bengali Muslim peasant and the urban poor for modern Bengali literature. He was instantly lauded as Bengal's most notable Muslim writer and went on to publish over 80 volumes of fiction, plays, verse, criticism, translation, autobiography and juvenilia.

Osman's first novel, *Janani* (1944-45), remains arguably his best. Set against the rise of communal politics of India, it can be read as an affirmative experiment in the



possibility of Hindu-Muslim unity. Azhar is a pious Muslim peasant, but his best friend is Chandra, a toddy-addict, low-caste Hindu fisherman cum part-time impresario.

Their relationship is sometimes mediated by Azhar's little boy - through whose eyes the author often sees the world, giving it a certain charm. The other theme of the novel unfolds after Azhar's death, when his widow Darabi's heroic struggle to support her children and protect her honour ends in tragedy.

A chunk of his next novel, *Adam's Children* (1946) - which was never completed to Osman's satisfaction (he called it "a torso") - captures with stark realism the life of the city poor. The writer's own life in Calcutta gave him a privileged perspective.

He was born Sheikh Azizur Rahman in Hoogly, West Bengal, in 1917, into a Muslim family, to a father whom he described as a peasant-artisan. At the age of 13 he

went to Calcutta to continue his secondary schooling at Madrassa-e-Alia, living in *jagir* lodgings - an arrangement whereby young indigent students stay full-board with a family while tutoring their children. After matriculating, he supported himself while studying at St Xavier's College for an Honours degree in Economics, and gave extra tuition in order to send money home.

During this period of his life, he later reminisced, he had "lived half-starved for months on end and on some days went without food". He had his first full-time job as a poster writer after taking his Masters degree in Bengali in 1941, and later that year he was appointed lecturer in Bengali at Calcutta Government Commercial College; this was a government post he would hold at different colleges until retirement in 1972.

Following the partition of India in 1947, Osman opted for Pakistan (the eastern part of which became Bangladesh in 1971). He was posted to Chittagong and subsequently Dhaka. Though he wrote several volumes of short stories based on his experiences of his adopted country, he probably never got to know it intimately enough to write a full-length novel in a realist mode.

Osman was a committed writer and he saw his commitment in terms of opposition to the pursuit of aesthetic goals, which he spurned as self-indulgence. This was not entirely without regret. In *A Dialogue With Self*, his alter ego speaks thus:

In the face of an unbearable present, you have wasted all your energy in producing ephemera. Your activity is limited to the pursuit of the bubbles of national life. You have not learnt to dive deeper "in search of the exquisite pearl".

In his fiction, Osman worked in two distinct modes. His early realism gave way to an allegorical manner - presumably under political pressure but, as he wrote to an old student, from 1962 onwards he never allowed his "flag of protest to be brought down".

That year he published *The Laughter of the Slave*, a thinly disguised attack on Ayub Khan, Pakistan's then military ruler, who sought to bribe the nation's intellectuals into submission. Osman finds in Haroun-el-Rashid, the mythical king of Baghdad, an allegorical prototype.

One night the king is enchanted by laughter he overhears during one of his nocturnal rounds of the city. The source turns out to be a slave in the presence of his beloved. The king removes the slave from his orig-

inal home, gives him a life of luxury and commands him to rehearse his laughter, but the man, now estranged from his loved one, denies him the pleasure and dies tortured.

Osman occasionally returned to a realist mode, as in *The State Witness* (1985), a story of corruption whose theme is migration from Bangladesh to the Middle East. While the first two chapters, mute "testimonies" of two characters awaiting trial in prison cells, are continuing evidence of his power of realistic observation, the third chapter offers a humorous account of the trial where the lawyers deploy the sharia (Islamic law) to denounce serious criminal charges as un-Islamic.

During the last years of his life, seeking a wider audience, Osman wrote a weekly column of folk-style verse and song for a newspaper, in which he deployed irony, satire and his characteristic humour; he also wrote his autobiography, *Rahnama*, which was serialised in *Janakandha*, the most prestigious national newspaper.

In 1996 he suffered a stroke and was virtually confined to his rooms by doctor's orders. It was painful for a man of his temperament - an ardent and witty conversationalist, convivial, restless and surprisingly youthful and sprightly at 80. He did not recover from his second stroke.

Kabir Choudhury translated *The Laughter of the Slave* into English in the Sixties. In 1993 my translations of *Janani* and *The State Witness* were published by Heinemann and Peepal Tree Books respectively. Three years later Penguin India published *God's Adversary and Other Stories*, an anthology of 23 of Osman's short stories I had translated over the years since I first met him in 1962 as a much older colleague at Dhaka College. Osman's short stories have been translated into many languages including German, Russian, Japanese and Norwegian.

When Shaukat Osman died, the whole Bangladeshi cabinet were gathered at his bedside in the intensive care unit. His body was taken to the Shaheed Minar, the nation's most hallowed mausoleum, for people to pay their last respects. He was buried in the graveyard where the bodies of intellectuals murdered in 1971 are laid to rest.

Osman Jamal

Sheikh Azizur Rahman (Shaukat Osman), writer: born Hoogly, West Bengal 2 January 1917; married (three sons, one daughter; and one son deceased); died Dhaka 14 May 1998.



Play your cards right and you could make a good living at this on 't'pier': Wootton in his studio.

Brighton Argus

Frank Wootton

FRANK WOOTTON has been called "probably the finest aviation artist of all time" for his depiction of the Royal Air Force in the Battle of Britain and beyond.

The day after the Second World War was announced Wootton volunteered for the Air Force, "not as an artist... I wanted to fly as air crew or whatever job could be found for me". Air Commodore Harold Peake, RAF director of public relations, appreciating Wootton's special skills, invited him "to record the Canadian Air Force who had sent their men and machines over".

The War Artists Advisory Committee had been formed at the outbreak of war, initiated and overseen as chairman by Sir Kenneth Clark. Among its briefs was "to draw up a list of artists qualified to record the war at home and abroad", in co-operation with government and the various services as desirable. A small number of artists were granted commissions, others receiving agreed fees for specific works.

Wootton applied to be an official war artist, but was rejected by Clark, who was reported to be miffed at not being consulted when Wootton was chosen to record the Battle of Britain at Biggin Hill.

That difficult-to-weigh commodity, artistic merit, rather than illustrative accuracy, was said to be the committee's guiding principle. But the RAF member of the Committee, Peake, expressed disquiet about work by Paul Nash and made a plea for Wootton's more technically accurate efforts to be sympathetically considered. It fell on deaf ears.

In time Wootton became the RAF's own official artist, by-passing the Committee. Air Chief Marshal

Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, Commander of No 12 Group during the Battle of Britain and Commander-in-Chief Allied Air Forces for the 1944 Normandy landings, chose Wootton to cover the invasion.

He was in France shortly after D-Day with No 35 (Recc) Wing of the RAF, following the Allied advance through Belgium. Wootton was granted Leigh-Mallory's personal pass, allowing him unique freedom of movement and access. The result was outstanding pictures such as the Imperial War Museums *Rocket-Firing Typhoons at the Falaise Gap, Normandy*.

Wootton went on to work for the RAF in India and Burma. There his fellow war artist Thomas Hennell made a personal plea to Clark for Wootton to be granted commission rank, as he was still a humble aircraftman on four shillings a day. The official ear remained deaf.

Frank Wootton was born in Milford on Sea, Hampshire, in 1914. His father was in the Merchant Navy, and his mother died when he was still at school. Father did not approve of Frank's wanting to be an artist, urging him to "go for a proper job", like architecture or engineering, chosen by his brothers.

Wootton persisted however. He won a scholarship at 14 to the School of Art in Eastbourne, where the family had settled; the principal was Arthur Reeve-Fowkes. Wootton never forgot the ability of his teacher Oliver Senior to draw hands or the excellent instruction of Eric Ravilious.

He won the gold medal and a travelling scholarship, which took him to Germany, where he was commissioned to paint murals. It was a

good introduction to becoming a commercial artist, which he did on his return to London, and where he missed Sussex that each weekend he would cycle there and back.

During the 1930s Wootton freelanced, making aviation a speciality. He produced his first book, *How to Draw Aircraft* (1936), which was a best-seller, revised and rewritten many times. *How to Draw Cars* followed in the late 1930s.

After the war with Japan Wootton recorded Anglo-Iranian Oil's activities in Persia, then resumed his commercial career: Imperial Airways and British Overseas Airways Corporation commissions took him all over the world. In 1964, on a visit to the author Nevil Shute in Australia, he offered someone with a more urgent journey his seat on a Comet returning to England. The plane plummeted into the sea off Elba.

The RAF connection continued with several commissions. Wootton recorded royal visits to Marham (in 1956) and (in 1968) Abingdon air bases, the latter on the occasion of the RAF's golden jubilee. The Australian War Memorial and the National Air Museum, Canada, were among many collections who acquired Wootton's work. In 1983 the National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC had a big Wootton exhibition as its inaugural show.

A book on Wootton, *At Home in the Sky*, was published to commemorate the Washington exhibition. The *Landscapes Paintings of Frank Wootton* followed in 1989, and *Frank Wootton, 50 Years of Aviation Art* in 1992.

He was founder-president of the Guild of Aviation Artists and among

many honours was appointed OBE in 1995 for services to the RAF.

Wootton was also a notable equestrian and landscape artist. A good horseman, he became vice-president of the Society of Equestrian Artists and last year was sole judge of the British Driving Society's Concours d'Elegance at Windsor.

He had a gift for portraying not only the form and action of horses, but their individual characteristics. His first show in New York, in 1969, brought him many clients, who appreciated his faultless draughtsmanship and careful recording of the play of light on the subject. When the Tryon Gallery included him in *Horse Artists of the World* in the same year, Wootton's status rose.

Frank Wootton gave his time and works to aid service charities. An early such gesture during the Second World War was at a Wings for Victory week in Trowbridge, where Wootton drew visitors at a pound a time, raising £250. His commanding officer, a Lancastrian, was impressed, commenting: "Well done, lad. Play your cards right and you could make a good living at this on 't'pier'".

It was appropriate that as mourners stood outside Berwick Church in Sussex for his funeral, a Spitfire flew a victory roll over Frank Wootton's grave.

David Buckman

Frank Anthony Albert Wootton, artist: born Milford on Sea, Hampshire 30 July 1914; OBE 1995; married 1938 Eileen Butler (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1958); 1958 Jimmy Cawthorne (one son, one daughter); died Afriston, Sussex 21 April 1998.

Royce Kendall

THE KENDALLS - Royce and Jeannie - were the most successful father-daughter team in country music. Jeannie's distinctive lead and Royce's light baritone harmonised effortlessly on more than twenty Top Forty hits, including their signature tune, "Heaven's Just a Sin Away" (1977).

Culled from the album *Let the Music Play*, both father and daughter were drawn to the song from the start. As Royce later recalled: "We'd only played the thing once, and we remembered it. That's a good sign... that's the reason we cut it." The song was originally the B-side to "Live and Let Live", but deejays began playing "Heaven's Just a Sin Away" instead. It went on to spend a month at the top of the country charts and netted the Kendalls awards from both the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music, and a Grammy.

Royce Kendall had originally performed alongside his brother Floyd as one half of a guitar-mandolin duo known as the Austin Brothers. They enjoyed only limited success and, after a spell in the army, Royce with his wife Melba settled in St Louis, where he worked as a barber.

Their daughter Jeannie started showing an interest in music whilst still in her early teens and the pair began to perform together locally. Their debut disc, "Round, Round, Round", gained them some airplay and ultimately a deal with Pete Drake's Nashville-based label Stop, but they had little empathy with the material they were offered - which included "Proud Mary" and "Leaving on a Jet Plane" - and the association proved short-lived.

Over the next few years they found themselves signed in, and then dropped by, both Dot and United Artists. In 1976, however, they met the producer Brian Fisher who had just moved to Nashville to establish Ovation Records' country division. He brought them on board and they recorded *Let the Music Play*, their debut album for the label, in just one day. Their first single for their new label, a cover of Jimmy Work's classic "Makin' Believe", had the mis-



fortune to find itself pitched directly against a version of the same song by Emmylou Harris, and flopped.

However, their second, and more precisely its flip-side, catapulted both them and Ovation into the big time. In addition to its country success, it was played on pop and gospel radio; the Kendalls then were sent scores of song ideas featuring the words "heaven" and "sin" in the title. They followed "Heaven's Just a Sin Away" with Curly Putman's fine "It Don't Feel Like Sin 'n' To Me" (1978) which reached No 2, "Pittsburgh Steelers" (1978) and then another chart-topper the same year "Sweet Desire", which was written by Jeannie Kendall. Subsequent hits included "Just Like Real People" and "You'd Make an Angel Wanna Cheat" (both 1979) and "Put It Off Until Tomorrow" (1980), which had been written by Dolly Parton and her uncle Bill Owens.

Ovation's 1981 bankruptcy in 1981

caused the Kendalls to move to the Mercury label, where the hits continued: "Teach Me to Cheat" (1981), "If You're Waiting on Me (You're Backing Up)" (1982) and, with additional harmony vocals courtesy of Emmylou Harris, "Precious Love" (1983). The following year they took Max D. Barnes and Robert John Jones' "Thank God for the Radio", now a classic, to the No 1 spot. As with "Heaven's Just a Sin Away", Royce Kendall had felt good about the song from the off and despite the objections of their producer Blake Mevis, had insisted that they be allowed to cut it. It was to prove not only their final visit to the top of the charts but also to the Top Ten.

Paul Wadey

Royce Kendall (Royce Kykendall), singer: born St Louis, Missouri 25 September 1934; married (one daughter); died Marquette, Iowa 22 May 1998.

Ghazar Sarayan

GHAZAR SARYAN was one of the large cohort of technically adroit Soviet composers who seems to have been happy writing the kind of music that didn't trouble the regime. His Moscow training (under Shostakovich, among others) provided him with the technique that allowed him to express himself economically, and the Armenian heritage that Saryan set so much store by lent colour to his textures. The result was folk-inspired, immediately attractive music which didn't arouse the political controversies that attended the creative efforts of stronger personalities.

Saryan's awareness of Armenian culture owed much to being born the son of the painter Martiros Saryan, a towering figure in 20th-century Armenian culture. Saryan père, indeed, was the dedicatee of the Second Symphony of Boris Parsadian, one

of a large group of Armenian composers who made the journey north to study in Moscow immediately after the Second World War. Some of them - Arunturyan, Babadzhanian, Khudoyan and Mirzoyan, for example - are now relatively well known, though Saryan, who was among them, has been less fortunate.

Ghazar ("Lazar" in Russian) had begun his studies at the Erevan Conservatory (1934-38) with Sergey Barkhudaryan and Verdies Talyan. His training in Moscow started with Vissarion Shebalin at the Gnesin School of Music, and in 1945 he moved to the Moscow Conservatory, where his teachers were Anatoly Nikolayevich Aleksandrov, Dmitry Kabalevsky and Dmitry Shostakovich.

Upon his graduation in 1950 Saryan joined the staff of the Erevan Conservatory as professor of

composition (during which time, in 1955-56, he was also Chairman of the Armenian Composers' Union); he was appointed Rector 10 years later. Among his students are some of the better-known names in more recent Armenian music, including Tigran Mansuryan, Ruben Sarkisyan and Avet Terteryan.

Much of Saryan's compositional output was dedicated to orchestral music. His catalogue includes a *Symphonic Poem* (1950), *Symphonic Pictures* (1955), a politically requisite *Festival Overture* (1957), *Adagio and Dance for strings* (1957) and a *Serenade* (1959). There are also a number of film scores, as well as vocal and teaching pieces. His most highly regarded works are the Violin Concerto of 1973 and the *Symphonic Canvas Armenia* (1966), directly inspired by his father's paintings. Svetlana Sarkisyan's thumbnail

sketch in *The New Grove* describes his music as "distinguished by clarity of line and tasteful orchestration, together with a national colouring and a pictorial quality".

Armenia, the *Symphonic Pictures* and the *Serenade*, as well as an *Aria and Toccata* for violin and piano, were recorded by Melodiya during the Soviet period, but an accurate assessment of Saryan's position in posterity will have to wait for the emergence of some of his works on CD. It has happened for a number of obscure composers from the ex-Soviet regions, so it is possible that Saryan may yet have his day.

Martin Anderson

Ghazar Martirosovich Saryan, composer and teacher: born Rostov-on-Don, Soviet Union 30 September 1920; died Yerevan, Armenia 27 May 1998.

Ann Grahame Johnstone

"UNFAILING sentimentality and a palpable determination to please." So thundered Nigel Peppin's and Lucy Micklethwait's *Dictionary of British Book Illustrators: the 20th century* (1983) on the work of Anne Grahame Johnstone. But this is equally palpably an unfair judgement: the more than one hundred books illustrated by Anne and her identical twin Janet show a wide variety of styles. Their line drawings, in particular, reveal an attention to detail and sensitivity to atmosphere putting them in the great tradition of book illustration from Bewick to Ernest Shepard and beyond.

Anne was born 20 minutes after Janet on 1 June 1928. Their mother was Doris Zinkeisen, a successful portrait painter and stage designer, who did valuable work for the Old Vic during the Second World War. In 1946 the twins' father died; both girls then lived with their mother for the rest of her life (she died in 1991).

After studying at St Martin's School of Art, they settled down as professional illustrators, staying in London until 1966 when they finally moved to Suffolk. They worked on every picture together, passing illustrations between each other until both were satisfied. Janet, the more assertive of the two, concentrated on animals while Anne was the expert on period costume. Early commissions included Enid Blyton's *Tales of Ancient Greece* (1951), and new illustrations for that hoary old shocker *Strawpeter* (1950): a bizarre enterprise which must now surely be a collector's piece.

But most work was done designing Christmas cards and illustrating numbers of large, brightly coloured gift books, mainly published by Dean. Their

full-page illustrations surrounding nursery rhymes, fairy tales or children's prayers were in the tradition of undemanding effusiveness set by older artists like Hilda Boswell, still hugely popular with the public though increasingly frowned on by critics.

Conservative by nature, the twins were never artistically innovative, but their best work away from the demands of gross commercialism could still be very good indeed. This is evident to their drawings for Dodie Smith's *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* in 1956. The old-fashioned frontispiece illustrating "The Twilight Barking" with its atmospheric use of shadow, fine detail and number of different habitations brilliantly set the tone for what was to come. Here were pictures for children to pore over: meticulously executed Tudor mansions, bricked-up Georgian façades, four-poster beds and deserted

Clever angles and unexpected perspectives anticipate Disney's cartoon film

folies all making an intriguing backdrop for the heroic dog characters.

Far from gazing wistfully at their readers, these animals are shown as alert and business-like. Clever angles and some unexpected perspectives anticipate Disney's cartoon film to follow. As with Edward Ardizzone, human



The twins in their studio, Anne seated, and Janet behind her

characters are often pictured from the back but still come over in a strongly individualistic way. The only failure is Cruella de Vil, almost defiantly un-evil-looking in tune with the twins' own essentially benign outlook on life.

In 1979 Janet died in an accident. Although devastated by this loss (their brother Murray described them together as one and a half rather than two people), Anne found the strength to honour all their existing commissions and to continue alone. She learned how to draw the animals that Janet used to specialise in, becoming so adept that she was this year elected a Member of the Society of Equestrian Artists.

This fascination with horses did not end there; the twins had previously driven a smart dogcart around the Suffolk countryside, with Janet holding the reins and Anne dealing with the whipping. After Janet's death Anne continued this hobby, winning numbers of cups and rosettes at various competitions.

Never a particularly spiritual person – her *Little Jesus Pop-up Book* (1976) owed more to paying the bills than re-

ligious fervour – Anne nevertheless accepted the fact of the liver cancer that was to kill her with courage and grace. Always more concerned for others than for herself, she continued to work until two days before her death.

Like her sister, Janet, Anne Grahame-Johnstone never married, but enjoyed close relations with her nephew and two nieces, all of whom work in the arts. Her legacy to children everywhere includes work on *Andy Pandy* and the *Flower Pot Men* in early children's television, and numbers of Christmas jigsaw puzzle designs. But she and Janet will chiefly be remembered for their huge output of illustrations stretching from Peter Pan to Gilbert and Sullivan, always executed to a high professional standard and at best in the line drawings, able to compete with some of the finest work of their generation.

Nicholas Tucker

Anne Grahame Johnstone, illustration: born London 1 June 1928; died Badingham, Suffolk 25 May 1998.



Drawing from Dodie Smith's *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* (1956)

SOCIOLOGICAL NOTES

BY STEPHEN HOWE

Pharaohs in cyberspace

ALL HUMAN groups, it seems, share a compulsive need to create myths about their own origins and histories. They range from the harmlessly eccentric – all those depressingly popular books about lost civilisations and ancient Egyptian secrets – to the frighteningly destructive. Invented or distorted histories, rival visions of the past, underpin ethnic conflict from Belfast to Bombay, Jerusalem to Johannesburg, guaranteeing the reproduction of inherited prejudice across generations.

All this is as very old. It is at least as old as recorded history, repeated ever since ancient Greeks, Hebrews and Egyptians created stories about their own special virtues, their neighbours' special wickedness or inferiority.

What is new is that today, some sophisticated intellectuals champion myth over history, because it is supposedly more open-ended, more liberating, and through it one hears the voices of the oppressed and excluded. Others claim children from different groups in plural societies should be taught different, even antagonistic versions of history, in the name of multiculturalism, or in the interests of fostering group pride and solidarity.

Also new is the way that, via modern technologies and population movements, what were once local stories about the past are now globalised.

Browsing the websites of movements like Holocaust-denying "revisionists", the USA's white supremacist "Christian Identity", or India's savagely anti-Muslim "Hindutva" organisations, one encounters terrifying underworlds of mythicised pseudo-history. The stories they tell bear no relation to the researches of genuine scholars in those fields – but the scholars' words are almost drowned by the fantasists', in the new information media.

One of the strangest of these myth-making movements, proliferating on the Internet as well as in print media and the education system is Afrocentrism. There are hundreds of websites devoted to wild ideas about innate African superiority, the African origins of absolutely everything, and so on: certainly far more than there are dealing with Africa's real history.

Afrocentrism is less dangerous than some of the other bogus "historical" movements colonising the Net. Unlike them, few of its advocates call for violence



Afrocentric fantasies proliferate on the Web

against other groups. Nor, on the whole, do the movement's devotees – members of still underprivileged minorities – have the power to do much harm to others. The damage Afrocentric fake history can do is mainly to its intended audience, not to their supposed enemies.

In other ways, though, Afrocentrism is no less disturbing and damaging than rival historical myths. This is partly because of the tragic irony that a structure of illusion and reverse racism has taken hold among some of the very people who have suffered most from others' prejudice. It is partly because, unlike most other ethnocentric fantasies, it attracts sympathy in liberal and leftist quarters.

And it's partly because Afrocentric fantasy threatens to fill a gaping hole where true knowledge of Africa should be. The global mainstream of education and communication has only very recently – and very partially – struggled away from old racist assumptions about Africa: that it's basically historyless and cultureless. Meanwhile, poverty and technological underdevelopment mean that continental African voices barely feature in the global conversation of the Web. Now the new mass of ahistorical fabrications about Africa claim to correct the old ones but actually reproduce many of their worst features. If we go straight from the legend of the Dark Continent to the fable of Pharaohs in cyberspace, the main loser will be Africa itself.

Stephen Howe's 'Afrocentrism: mythical pasts and imagined homes' has just been published by Verso.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

BARNETT: John Vernon Barnett, CBE MA, died 17 June. Funeral at Martin's, North Nibley, Wednesday 24 June at 1.45pm. Family flowers only, donations to Marie Curie via Chatterbucks, Cam Dursley.

KNIGHT: Annette Ros, died in hospital on 15 June, aged 72, after a long and courageously borne period of disability, the dearly loved wife of Edmund and mother of Frances. Funeral and memorial service at St Nicholas' Church, Harpenden at 2pm on Wednesday 24 June. Family flowers only; donations if wished to The Arthritis Research Campaign, Copeham House, Chesterfield, S41 7TD.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £2.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Hugh Annesley, former chief constable, RUC, 59; Mr Jack Bailey, former secretary, MCC, 68; Mr Danny Baker, television presenter, 41; Sir John Barnes, former diplomat, 81; Sir Christopher Booth, gastro-enterologist, 74; Lieut-Gen Sir Robin Carnegie, 72; Mr Hubert Chesshyre, Clarenceux King of Arms, 58; Miss Katherine Dunham, choreographer, 88; Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, former Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire, 77; Mr Graham Hill, solicitor and former chairman, Guinness Mahon, 71; Mr Ian Howe, former chairman, Kwik Save, 58; Lord Hunt KG, mountaineer, 88; Mr Bruce Kent, nuclear disarmament activist, 68; Mr Kris Kristofferson, singer, songwriter and actor, 62; Professor Donald Low, former president of Clare Hall, Cambridge, 71; Mr Alan Osmond, singer, 49; Mr David Owen, former chief constable, North Wales, 67; Mr Libor Pesvek, conductor, 65; Miss Esther Rantzen, television presenter, 58; Professor Michael Salmon, former Vice-Chancellor, Anglia Polytechnic University, 62; Dame Cicely Saunders OM, founder of St Christopher's Hospice, 80; Miss Prunella Seales, actress, 66; Miss Debra Shipley MP, 41; Mr Alastair Stewart, television presenter, newscaster and reporter, 46; Miss Meryl

Streep, actress, 49; Lord Wakeham, chairman, Press Complaints Commission, 66; Mr Billy Wilder, film director and screenwriter, 92; Miss Diana Young, jockey, 42.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Jacques Delille, abbé and poet, 1738; George Vancouver, navigator and explorer, 1797; Karl Wilhelm von Humboldt, philologist, 1767; Giuseppe Mazzini, Italian leader, 1805; Sir Henry Rider Haggard, novelist, 1856; William MacDougall, psychologist, 1871; Sir Julian Sorell Huxley, biologist, 1887; Erich Maria Remarque, novelist, 1898; Michael Todd (Avram Goldenbogen), film producer, 1907; Sir Peter Pears, tenor, 1910. **Deaths:** Roger I, King of Sicily, 1101; St John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, executed, 1535; Katherine Philips (Rowley), verse-writer, 1664; Mrs Catherine Macaulay Graham, historian, 1791; Benjamin Robert Haydon, painter and writer, committed suicide, 1846; Howard Staunton, Shakespearean scholar and chess player, 1874; Henry Moore, marine painter, Sir Henry Hughes Wilson, field marshal, assassinated, 1922; Felix Klein, mathematician, 1925; Walter John De La Mare, poet and author, 1956; Judy Garland (Frances Gumm), actress and singer, 1969; Joseph Losey, film director, 1984; Fred Astaire (Frederick

Joseph Cafasso, St Paulinus of Nola and St Thomas More.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Richard Kendall, "Little Dancer, Big Problems: Degas's Little Dancer Age Fourteen", 1pm.

SIR FRANCIS AVERY JONES

A memorial service for Sir Francis Avery Jones will be held at St Giles' Church Without Cripplegate, Barbican on Thursday 6 August 1998 at noon. Applications for tickets which will be sent out on Thursday 16 July 1998 should be made in writing to the Clerk, Worshipful Company of Barbers, Barber-Surgeons' Hall, London EC2.

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

The Annual Conference of the Board of Deputies of British Jews was held yesterday at the Institute of Education, London WC1. Mr Eldred Tabachnik, President, opened the conference. Lord Young of Grafton, Mr Morris Abram, former US Ambassador to the United Nations, and Mrs Ruth Deech, Principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, were the speakers.

the Blind at the Aldwych Theatre, London WC2.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am: 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

CASE SUMMARIES

22 JUNE 1998

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Extradition

Re Gross; QBD (Div C) (Simon Brown LJ, Hooper J) 4 June 1998.

THE PROCEDURAL change in domestic extradition proceedings did not deprive a fugitive offender in extradition proceedings from giving or calling evidence, since the amendment to para 7(1) of Sch 1 to the Extradition Act 1989 postulated that a magistrate conducting a extradition proceedings was engaged on a summary trial, and, further, the new s 35(3) of the 1989 Act made it clear that such evidence could be given. *Alan Jones QC, Leah Saffron (Goldsmiths) for the applicant; Andrew Coleman (CPS) for the respondents.*

Libel

Wilson and ors v Christie; CA (Stuart Smith, Brooke LJ, Sir John Knox) 11 June 1998.

A SOLICITOR advocate who had acted as a libel reader for a defendant and who had advised that an article was not libellous was not disbarred from subsequently representing that defendant, since on a true construction of para 4.1(e) of the Law Society's Code for Advocacy, there was a clear distinction between deciding on a course of action and advising on a course of action. Only where the solicitor advocate had taken the decision himself would he be in breach of his professional duty in accepting instructions to act. *David Price (David Price & Co) for*

the second defendant; Patrick Maloney QC (Russell) for the plaintiff.

VAT

Rahman (t/a Khayam Restaurant) v Comrs of Customs & Excise; QBD (Carnwath J) 11 June 1998.

THE TWO-stage approach in *Van Boeckel v Comrs of Customs & Excise* [1981] 1 STC 290, that the VAT tribunal should first decide whether an assessment made under s 73 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 was made to the best of the officer's judgment, and if so whether the amount was correct, could lead the tribunal into placing undue emphasis on the "best of judgment" question. It was very unusual that an assessment would be totally rejected, but the tribunal's main task was to reach a fair conclusion as to amount. *Marion Lonsdale (Solusbury Robinson & Turner, Leicester) for the taxpayer; Richard Barlow (Solicitor; C & E) for the Crown.*

Defendant's costs order

Coles v DPP; QBD (Div C) (Simon Brown LJ, Hooper J); 12 June 1998.

JUSTICES WERE empowered to make a defendant's costs order under s 16 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 where the prosecution had withdrawn all charges against the defendant, because the defendant had been an accused person and was therefore in the same position as a defendant who had been acquitted. It followed that, having made a defendant's costs order in those circumstances, justices could not subsequently rescind the order under s 143 of the Magistrates' Courts Act

1980, to fill the power under that section only extended to cases where a defendant had been found guilty. *David Bold (Hycot Davies AT Guyman, Y Bala) for the appellant; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.*

Advertisements

Westminster City Council v Moran; QBD (Div C) (Simon Brown LJ, Hooper J) 12 June 1998.

THE WORD "continually" in Class 13, Sch 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992 had been precisely chosen and was intended to encompass advertising which was regularly recurring, not advertising which was continuous. *Suzanne Reeve (City Solicitor and Secretary, Westminster City Council) for the appellant; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.*

Magistrates' courts

Kent County Council v Curtis; QBD (Div C) (Simon Brown LJ, Hooper J) 15 June 1998.

ONCE JUSTICES had reached and pronounced their decision on informations before them, subject only to the slip rule in s 142 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, they were strictly *functus officio* and ought not to receive or act on any advice given by their clerk. Moreover, they could not state fresh conclusions in a stated case since, in that situation, a respondent would have no opportunity to challenge any matter arising from those new conclusions, should he wish to do so. *Joanna Clayton (Solicitor, Kent County Council) for the appellant; the respondent appeared in person.*

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Marshal of the RAF, visits RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire. The Prince of Wales visits the Rainbow Centre, Centenary Methodist Chapel, Camborne, Cornwall, a registered charity providing support and advice to families in need, and also meets members of the nearby new connection drop-in centre; and as President, Business in the Community, attends a meeting to discuss sustainable regeneration and business investment in the area at Pall Industrial Hydraulics, Redruth, Cornwall. The Princess Royal, Honorary Member, National Osteoporosis Society, opens their biennial conference at the

Assembly Rooms, Bath, Somerset; and, as Patron, Farms for City Children, officially opens Wick Court, Arlingham, Gloucestershire. The Duke of Gloucester opens the new heritage centre at the Aerospace Museum, Cosford, Shropshire. The Duchess of Gloucester opens the final stage of the rebuilding at Frimley Park Hospital, Camberley, Surrey, visits St Peter's RC Primary

School, Leatherhead, Surrey; and, as Patron, St John's School, opens the Sixth Form and Communications Centre, Leatherhead. The Duke of Kent, President, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, attends the Wimbledon Championships, London SW19. Princess Alexandra attends a preview of *Whistle Down The Wind* in aid of the Greater London Fund for

the Blind at the Aldwych Theatre, London WC2.

the Blind at the Aldwych Theatre, London WC2.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am: 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

HOW APPROPRIATE that hooligans should be in the news: this year is the centenary of the first appearance of the word *hooligan*.

The derivation of the word is disputed. Some say it came from an Irish family, the Houlthans, noted for their ruffianly behaviour in south-east London. Others claim it is a refer-

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
hooligan n.

ence to a gang run by a chap named Hooly.

The earliest appearance of the word in print is in newspaper reports of police-court cases in 1898.

Last week, celebrations in Marseilles of the centenary of hooliganism were evidently well supported. In the week to 13 June, there were 277 articles on our newspaper database including the word *hooligan*, compared with only 61 the week before. *Lout, thug, yob* and *mindless* also featured prominently.



Pierre Vickery stands on the threshold of the first Pierre Victoire restaurant in Edinburgh's Victoria Street

Gordon Terris

Victim of the chain gang

Pierre Victoire had the recipe for success, but lacked the stomach for big business. Richard Ehrlich on the restaurant that grew and grew until it burst

THE LOCATIONS may not have been the smartest and the furniture was second hand, but with menus that changed daily, served by trendy young students, Pierre Victoire succeeded in creating a cosy French bistro feel - and all at £5.90 for a three-course meal. Founded in the recession of the late Eighties, the restaurant chain seemed to have the world at its unbumby shod feet.

The empire eventually expanded to over 110 outlets. However, last week the Edinburgh-based company announced that it was calling in the receivers. The chain that once looked set to become the McDonalds of French food is going belly-up.

Pierre Victoire, unlike the burger group, was not a chain of centrally managed restaurants. Founded by Pierre Levisy, a Frenchman, around 40 per cent of its branches were franchises, the first of which opened in Edinburgh. Would-be patrons had to turn up an initial fee of £17,500 + VAT and hand over 5 per cent of net turnover. "Typical total investment excluding working capital," according to their franchise offering, was £60,000. For this, prospective franchisees were tempted with a typical projected turnover in the first year of £50,000, rising to £65,000 in year three. It all sounded pretty rosy to over 10 individuals who took on franchises.

But whereas the McDonalds franchise system ensures consistency, Pierre Victoire couldn't. "Franchisees are put through their paces in a comprehensive training programme," they said on their website home page, "and the restaurant's progress closely monitored by the Operations Support Team." Despite those efforts, it was possible to get decent food at one branch and deplorable food at another. Inconsistency of this kind undermines the value of a restaurant "brand". Pizza Express, the greatest success story in low-price restaurants, offers pretty reliable standards at all its branches. So does Café Rouge, even if the standard is not very inspiring. But PV couldn't manage to do it. And its practice of finding cheap sites didn't always work out: some times, sites are cheap because they're retailing graveyards. This was certainly true of the one nearest my home in London. The branch went bust some months ago.

However, the chain was something of a one-off, and hasty expansion

probably played a large part in its problems. The industry as a whole is still thriving, with new openings all most weeks. On many nights it is impossible to get a table at London's smartest restaurants, and at some (eg, The Square, The Ivy and Aubergine) you can't even think about dinner for weeks or even months. Pizza Express goes from strength to strength, and will astonish everyone if it fails to weather the next economic downturn.

This downturn is not upon us at the moment, but now that the stock market is starting to show signs of a serious wobble, the restaurants may be heading into choppy waters. When people stop feeling affluent, one early cut in discretionary spending is the regular midweek restaurant meal. Rather than pay £30 or £40 a head once, twice or three times a week, they will go out once a week or fortnight - and spend less when they do.

Anyone who survived the recession of the early 1990s learned a great deal about cost-cutting, and they continue to be watchful even in the present

boom. Paul Henderson, of the country-house hotel and restaurant Gidleigh Park in Devon, says that, when their trade dropped around 25 per cent in 1990, they survived by taking "a serious look at all our costs. We bought flowers direct from Covent Garden rather than locally. We paid all our bills by BACS (bank automated clearing system) rather than cheque. With small items like these we saved £40,000 a year, and this helped us remain profitable over the next five years."

A similar experience is reported by general manager Andrew Russell, of Graveyard Manor in East Sussex, where the recession saw irregular trade drop off and the regulars spending less. They too cut costs: "We looked at every paper clip. We saved money on paper and lighting and heating." And they introduced less expensive wines, from the New World and Italy for instance, alongside their mainstay clarets. And some restaurants barely felt the pinch of the last recession at all. Simon Hopkinson,

founding chef of London's Bibendum and now the Independent's award-winning cookery writer, says that his restaurant "did suffer a bit but not as much as many. We had quiet Monday lunches but the rest of the week was mostly normal." He believes that the good, small restaurants "will always be all right because they're good and small. The excellent restaurants will always be all right. It's the middle-of-the-road restaurants, with average prices, but not all that brilliant, that will have trouble."

It's possible that in one respect the Pierre Victoire collapse portends difficulties elsewhere in the industry. The current boom has made it difficult for restaurants to find and keep first-rate staff. Tales are legion of expensive restaurants with semi-detached, incompetent waiters, and with kitchens and bars that can't keep up on busy nights. When people are more careful with their money, they will be less forgiving of serious shortcomings. And the casualties might include some famous names.

We are currently looking to recruit franchisees throughout the UK, N. Ireland and Eire," says the Pierre Victoire website. "So what are you waiting for?" In the case of the company, the answer is that they're waiting for the receivers. No one wants to know who's next to get that call.

Our polythene tunnel of love

IN THE STICKS

STEVIE MORGAN

DO YOU know that bit in the film *Witness*, where the Amish do their stuff with a few truckloads of timber and in three minutes erect something the size of the average sports hall? Well, Harrison Ford eat your heart out, you don't need to be in Outback America with a bunch of testototal guys with black hats to raise a barn. We did it at the weekend, in Roz and Josh's orchard, and there wasn't a member of a religious sect in sight.

True, strictly speaking it wasn't exactly a barn - it was a 40ft polytunnel. So there wasn't a great defining moment when the straining bared muscles of young men caused the hand-crafted wooden frames to leap up against the blue sky. No. The raising part consisted of three clothed blokes stapling a giant see-through bin bag over a frame of metal hoops. But emotionally it's the same as a barn.

Round here, nobody except doctors and retired criminals has a predictable income. You might combine a bit of chicken-rearing with the authorship of soft porn, a spot of Chinese medicine with organic pork rearing, a little light broadcasting with a trade in early potatoes. Almost everybody has some sort of financial dependency on what they do with the plot outside their back door, even if it's only to take the weight out of the grocery bills.

In this culture, the polytunnel looms large: you may have land; you may have three terraces on a bit of paler twine; you may even have raised vegetable beds and an old pick-up on blocks in the nettles, but until you have a polytunnel, you ain't nobody.

With a polytunnel you are not just messing about with an embarrassing August glut of runner beans, or marrows that could compete in the *Lunchbox Of The Universe* contest. You can grow things out of season for real money: strawberries in wet April, lettuce in greasy November. You are able to defy the seasons, and very probably the Inland Revenue. The Drugs Squad, too, if you site your tunnel carefully.

But Josh and Roz's polytunnel was destined for greater things than dope and strawberries from the start. Roz wasn't really that keen; it

was Josh who had plans to grow plants with names that sounded like Aztec deities or Apache sexual techniques: Kamatsuma, Korangi and Chilaote. The sort of crops that must be rolled between virgins' thighs at dawn to separate their chaff from seed; that can only be harvested by bare-breasted Amazons at full moon. They are going to be the foods of the future - The Next Big Thing, like sun-dried tomatoes or All Saints baggie jeans. This polytunnel was to be the centre of a quiet revolution, that Josh had been fantasising about for more than a year. Especially the Amazons and virgins part.

But when the tunnel was actually raised, plans were knocked a little off course.

The thing is, Roz discovered that it's really rather nice inside a polytunnel. It's not just another damp spot for voracious plant life to take over. There's lots of space for furniture improvised from last year's hay bales and half the contents of a bankrupt rug shop on the Fulham Road. Not so hot as a greenhouse, but sheltered enough to turn an indifferent June Sunday into sitting-about sort of weather. And the polythene makes the view blurry - it's a bit like being encased in a huge Mopet close-up.

Within an hour, the tunnel was hosting its first social event - a gathering of artists (part-time furniture dealers), musicians (part-time turkey producers), broadcasters (part-time market gardeners) and a lot of terriers (full-time dogs). All sporting themselves on the Persian carpet-covered hay, and eating strawberries, grown in someone else's polytunnel, from a huge communal bowl. "Fabric," Roz said. "You could line it with swathes of velvet and have the most gorgeous winter parties."

"With the right lighting it could be a lovely gallery," said the painters.

"Terrific place for a pig!" said the musicians. "Josh," said Roz. "You'll just have to put up another one. I need this one for cultural pursuits."

I think this polytunnel could be about to add yet another dimension to the rich tapestry of our little rural lives.

Frivolous? No. 'It's in our genes, it's what oestrogen does'

Continued from page one
the women weren't much better, as bitchy and vengeful as they were. Still, you sensed women were only like that because men beat them down so. It was a man's world. Women suffered. In the Seventies, in particular, this was wonderful and amazing stuff. She took the personal and made it truly political.

Her latest project is *Big Women*, a four-part drama series that goes out from 2 July on Channel 4. It's the story of the founding of a feminist publishing house - loose-

ly based on Carmen Calli's *Virago* in the Seventies, it is said - and destined similarly to collapse in a mess, its wimmin reverting back to women. It's not, frankly, as good or convincing as any of Fay's past stuff, but it does throw up some interesting thoughts. "The sisterhood is kaput," laments one character at the end. Is it? I ask Fay.

No, says Fay, it is not, although it should be. The rhetoric, she says has gone on for much longer than necessary. What, after the battle had been won, you mean? Has the battle been won? "The point of femi-

nism," she replies, "was not to win, not to put men down, but to achieve equality. To be allowed to be a person first and a certain gender second. But now it's gone too far. Now women diminish men in the way men used to diminish women." And off she spins, in poor ickle men mode.

Her view seems to be this. Men, these days, are far more likely to fail in school, turn to crime, commit suicide, think they're rubbish. This is the fault of women. Women get the jobs now. Women get everything after the divorce. Women have spread the

belief that all men are "idle/selfish bastards/potential abusers/racists" - all the things she has basically portrayed them as in her books. "True! But when I wrote about them behaving like that, that's how they were behaving. They don't behave like that now."

Men, she says, now need a man's movement. If so, I say, what should the slogan be? "I suppose, a man needs a woman like a fish needs a bicycle." Oh come on, Fay. It should be: "A man needs a woman otherwise who would go to Tesco?" Fay laughs another easy laugh. Thankfully, she has never taken herself too seriously.

But Fay, I insist, it isn't pity the poor men. It is still pity the poor women. Men are not being diminished. Fay, they are just getting fatter and fatter in front of the World Cup. Oh well, maybe I am wrong," she finally concedes cheerfully. Fay is as capricious as she is brainy. She tries on ideas like hats, to see if they suit. But, then, why not? "No idea is right for long."

Her own life has certainly been as helter skelter, and as full of exclamation marks, as any of her books. She was born in New Zealand (where her parents had emigrated) in 1931. They divorced when Fay was five and she, her mother and her older sister, Jane, (who died of cancer in 1969) came back to England when Fay was 14. They settled with her grandmother in Kentish Town. As she also attended an all-girls school, her view of the world became exclusively female. She thought she would be a nurse. "So I could buy nice dresses and talk to doctors," but ended up going to St Andrew's University in Scotland to study economics and philosophy.

Shortly after graduating, she became pregnant. She had her first son, Nick, when she was 23. She tried it as a single parent, but hated it. So, when Nick was three, she took the purely practical step of marrying a headmaster 25 years her senior. "I wasn't a wife. I just housekept and smiled."

She left him after two years, and met Ron Weldon - an antique dealer turned interior designer turned jazz musician. But three further sons and 30 years of seemingly devoted marriage later, he upped and left her after consulting a New Age therapist who told him he and Fay were astrologically incompatible. She never spoke



Waiting to be cloned Nicola Kurtz

to Ron again. Then, the day after the divorce came through in June 1994, he dropped dead from a stroke.

Fay has since remarried. Her third husband, who is 15 years her junior, is a former bookshop owner and poet who now manages her business affairs. She says she has thought about going to Rome for another baby yes. "But you have to use someone else's eggs, and I don't think I like that. I'll wait another couple of years, I think, until they can clone an egg encoded with my own genetic material."

One of her sons, Tom, 27, who was a New Age traveller for five years, was jailed last year for drug trafficking after 15,000 Ecstasy tablets were found in a car in which he was travelling in Amsterdam. He claims he was framed which, as his mother, she must believe, even though he is out until February. She visits him once a month at the Bijnster-bajes prison on the

outskirts of Amsterdam. He is, she says, doing rather well, as it happens. "He's learned computer animation, and has started painting."

She does not feel she is to blame in any way, no. "I was of the generation that still thought everyone was born with original sin, so we didn't expect them to turn out perfect." Still, I wonder if her *Pity The Poor Men* stuff has something to do with this Tom business. Maybe Fay is still making the personal political, in a different way.

Our lunch ambles most entertainingly on. We take in New Labour - "just a lot of people in love with Tony Blair" - and Germaine Greer, whom she admires ("always something new to say") and Camilla Paglia, whom she doesn't so much ("prone to making personal attacks, which aren't very helpful"). She is immensely fond of Erica Jong, who once gave her an invaluable piece of advice. "She said, 'Fay, always try to arrive by helicopter or limo...'"

After lunch we do our dizzy bit of shopping, then arrive at the beauty salon. No, there is nothing wrong in going to beauty salons. Or having eye-tucks. Fay's had an eye tuck. "It just makes you look nicer," she says. She had it done in Hollywood. "Because, had it gone wrong, it would have been easier to sue."

There is nothing silly or frivolous about any of this. "It's in our genes. Nature dictates it. It's what oestrogen does. It's what we've evolved to do." She is great at getting up on hooks, is Fay.

Our fingers are bathed, oiled, orange-sticked and base-coated by a lovely Chinese manicurist. Then, Fay and I pore over this season's new nail colours. What's it to be? Peak's Pike Purple? Or Flint Island Flicker? Oh, sisters, the tough choices women face today! In the end, I opt for the Purple while Fay goes for the Flint. We are pleased with our choices. We love our nails. We blow on them.

Now it's time for us to part, but I've had such an enjoyable time. I don't want to. Fay, I say, how about going home via Harley Street and a spot of liposuction then, perhaps, onto Stringfellows to dance around your new handbag and maybe pull? "Yes! Let's!" cries Fay. Fay, I was only joking, actually. "Oh," she sighs. And for the first time today she looks truly crestfallen.

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After a slew of school murders, the US gun lobby looked dead and buried. Then it played its joker: Charlton Heston. By Andrew Marshall

America bites the bullet



There is a message spelt out in blue ribbons on the fence around Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, reading: "Let it end here." Those words commemorate the two students who died in a hail of automatic gun fire last month, as Kipland Kinkel, a 15-year-old pupil with a grudge against the world, opened up on his classmates. His parents were later found dead in their house. Kinkel was just one in a series of teenage gunmen who have shocked America in the past six months. Just this week, a student at a Virginia school shot and wounded two members of staff, while the Arkansas shooting by two children earlier this year at a school in Jonesboro resulted in five fatalities.

Fifteen school killings in a year have helped to put America's gun lobby, which for so long seemed invulnerable, on the defensive. The gun lobby also faces a new round of legal cases intended to hit the arms industry where it hurts—in the pocket. All this is happening as the National Rifle Association, the main organisation which campaigns against gun control, is at its weakest for 20 years. Increasingly seen as a fringe group that favours guns over people, hampered by internecine sniping, its political influence has started to erode, just as the tides of anti-gun sentiment are rising again.

The NRA's salvation comes in the form of Charlton Heston, the artist formerly known as Moses, who was elected president earlier this month. Mr Heston may be 73, but he makes a fine speech, handles the press well and, in the eyes of the public, is a man who once had a direct line to God. His self-proclaimed mission is to nudge the NRA back towards the mainstream, away from the crazies.

Heston, a natural charmer, has made a good start. On a Sunday television discussion programme, he backed a move to put locks on guns to prevent accidental discharges. "I'm in favour of trigger locks," he said, but qualified the statement by saying that they weren't much use. Still, it was enough to please some

of the NRA's traditional opponents.

Heston himself owns about a dozen pieces, and should you ever be tempted to enter the Heston bedroom uninvited, beware. He told the *New York Post* he keeps a shotgun under the bed and a handgun within easy reach, just in case. But he learnt to shoot far from Beverly Hills, in rural Michigan. "This was during the Depression and I was expected to bring back a certain share for the table," he said. "Rabbit stew is pretty good—especially if you've achieved it yourself."

It is this hucolic image which the NRA used to present to the American people, of gun-owners as a gang of happy-go-lucky hunters with plaid jackets and game in the back of the pick-up truck. Run largely by sporty retired colonels, the NRA provided social events, safety demonstrations and training. They did not even contest the 1968 Gun Control Act, which banned the sale by mail order of guns and ammunition.

It all changed at the NRA's 1977 Cincinnati convention, when a revolution was launched by hard-line defenders of the Second Amendment, which protects the right to bear arms. It was led by Neil Knox, a gun writer, at the head of a cadre of young ideologues. For them, the point was politics: the freedom of the individual against the overweening state. They ousted the "bird watchers" in a series of putschs.

The Reagan years were a free-fire zone for the organisation. It expanded rapidly, taking on new members, accumulating vast amounts of cash, funding candidates wherever it wanted and swinging election races its way. Gun control was never a popular theme in a country where access to arms is regarded as a God-given right. But fate ordained that just as drug-fuelled urban warfare was breaking out across America, this well-funded cadre was in a position to ensure that nothing and no one would come between an American and his gun. They were the wrong people, at the right time in the right place. In 1993, gun homicides hit an all-time high of 18,334.

But as they gained total control



Above left: Andrew Golden, one of the Arkansas child murderers, wielding a gun aged 6; Charlton Heston, in 'Alaska', above, has always defended the right to arm himself; another victim is led away from the bloody aftermath at the Kinkel shooting, above right Rank Films, AP

of the NRA in the early 1990s, hubris caught up with the revolutionaries, they fell out with each other, and the organisation ruptured. Their brand of ideologically pure conservatism did not fit the Clinton Nineties quite so well. The soaring levels of gun deaths sparked a backlash and the Brady Bill was passed, which regulated handgun sales. The US outlawed the production and import of some assault weapons, the so-called "ugly automatics" that had turned the streets into firing ranges. And it clamped down on arms dealers, more than halving their numbers.

In response, the NRA swung further into conservative territory. In a 1994 column, Knox contended that the 1968 Act was modelled on Nazi legislation, and pondered whether the assassinations of Martin Luther King, John and Robert Kennedy had been staged for the purpose of disarming citizens of the free world. As the NRA went further right, it made middle America nervous.

In many ways, the turning point was 1995, the year of the Oklahoma bomb. Andrew LaPierre, the organisation's executive director, sent out a letter to raise funds. He de-

scribed federal agents as "armed terrorists dressed in black... who open fire with automatic weapons and kill law-abiding citizens".

Former President George Bush promptly resigned, saying that the letter "deeply offends my sense of honour and decency". It was also revealed that one NRA official had met with members of the Michigan Militia, one of the growing band of backwoods anti-state warriors. And Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma bomber, fixed an NRA sticker to a letter he wrote in 1992, arguing for "a God-given right to self-defence". It



read: "I am the NRA." Membership fell to 2.8 million from its high point of 3.5 million. The organisation's finances collapsed. The marketing onslaught of the Eighties and Nineties cost huge amounts of money, and the shortfalls started to show up in the accounts. Neil Knox's response was to go further right still; the others disagreed, and Knox was purged. Now the NRA is desperately trying to reclaim what it considers the centre ground.

It will be an uphill task. The NRA has developed a paranoid world-view best expressed in the list of people and organisations which it says are "anti-gun": Jack Lemmon, Leonard Nimoy, Richard Widmark, Herman Wouk, A&M records, Sara Lee, Bell Atlantic, the AFL-CIO, America's main labour union, the National Association of Police Organisations, the Jewish Labour Committee and hundreds more. This is the enemy, set out across eight pages.

Charlton Heston himself is regarded by hard-liners as deeply suspect, since he demonstrated in favour of gun control with other Hollywood stars after Bobby Kennedy's assassination in 1968 (though he has since revised his position). He also said last year that "AK-47s are inappropriate for personal use".

But Heston is by no means a moderate. "Mainstream America is counting on you to draw your sword and fight for them," he thundered to the Free Congress Foundation. He lashed out at "the fringe propaganda of the homosexual coalition, the feminists who preach that it is a divine duty for women to hate men, blacks who raise a militant fist with one hand while they seek preference with the other..."

The NRA badly needs to regain respectability because it is on the defensive on the key issue of gun control. Relatives of shooting victims have organised effective campaigns over the past decade. Sarah Brady of Handgun Control Inc is the wife of former White House press secretary James Brady. When John Hinckley gunned down Ronald Reagan in 1981, her husband James was shot and crippled. Their crusade got

the Brady Bill passed. Carolyn McCarthy's husband was shot dead in a Long Island Rail Road train in 1993. Next week she will introduce legislation mandating new handgun safety features. It is hard for the industry to argue against people like these.

The latest wave of school killings have helped to build a broader base of support for a new assault on the bullet bandits. Anti-gun campaigners are going to try to sue the manufacturers for making defective products. A woman from Berkeley, California, will this week take Beretta to court after her son was killed by a schoolmate. Last year, 15 manufacturers appeared with President Clinton to say that they would voluntarily ship trigger locks with their guns.

As far as the hard-liners are concerned this is defeatist talk, pinko liberal trash. Mr LaPierre wrote to the gunmakers who appeared with the President: "You have helped Clinton to co-opt, to steal yet another issue. And he will use it to destroy you." But on that occasion the gunmakers didn't make their appearance under the auspices of the NRA; they used another group, the American Shooting Sports Council, which had been formed in 1989 as a result of unhappiness with the NRA's extremism. If the NRA does not sort itself out, it risks being outflanked by gunmakers and gun opponents alike.

Compromise on gun regulation seems inevitable, when the manufacturers themselves are moving in that direction. There are even signs that America's love affair with the gun is waning. A Harris poll found that the number of Americans with a gun at home has declined from half of the population in 1973 to a third, and that more than two-thirds of Americans want tighter gun control laws. Yet despite all the progress that has been made, despite the Brady Bill, which cut gun deaths by a quarter, 9,390 people were killed by hand guns in the US in 1996. But as the NRA would remind us, guns don't kill people: it is people who kill people—people who believe that they are right and everyone else is wrong.

The rough guide to luggage

Leave the kitchen sink if you must, but pack everything else into your holiday suitcase. By Ann Treneman

I HAVE always assumed that, at some point in life, I would learn how to pack a suitcase. This would be a relief because, for starters, I could then quit reading those articles telling me how to pack a suitcase. You know the ones: they advise you to roll up everything into sausage shapes and insist that all you need for two weeks at the beach is a sarong, a floppy pair of shorts and a Swiss Army knife.

It has taken me decades to realise that this is complete rubbish and that articles on packing have nothing to do with reality. "It's aspirational," said a friend as I despaired over a "how to pack" piece in *Condé Nast Traveller*. The picture showed 19 items that make up your "easy-piece wardrobe" for two weeks "from beach to bar". It includes all of two pairs of shoes (one being a £285 pair of Manolo Blahnik satin mules), one swimsuit (£79 from Nicole Farhi), and a pashmina shawl for £11.70.

This is not aspirational, it is madness. How can any human go on holiday with two pairs of shoes? I have never managed less than five. And what is the point of a pashmina woven from the hairs of the Kashmiri mountain goat if you don't have a beach towel in the most garish colours possible? In fact, until this I had thought it was illegal to leave the UK on holiday without a beach towel. Evidently this is not true, however, and another recent "how to pack" guide in the *Mail* had this daring alternative: "Take a sarong. This can be worn as a cover-up on the beach but can



'Plan for all medical emergencies. See your suitcase as a branch of Boots-on-Sea'

also be made into a short skirt, halterneck and dress. It can also double as a sheet for your bed or a towel." Practical or what?

"The problem with packing is that you are not on holiday when you are doing it," said a friend the other day. "So you really have no idea what you will need." Now I know this sounds obvious, but obvious is better than aspirational. Besides which, she is right. On a rainy day in Britain it is impossible to imagine that you need three jumpers for a holiday anywhere in the world. Since there is no

way to visualise your destination (ignore all that stuff about reading the weather reports, it is simply not adequate) then you have to expect mistakes.

So here is the only advice you will read about how to pack that is based on reality. Expect mistakes and ban all thoughts of light luggage. A light suitcase is an incomplete suitcase. Remember that you need to think in multiples. Do not even entertain the notion of going on a beach holiday without at least three swimsuits, preferably with enough strap variations to make your tanned body a con-

versation piece. Note that you only need to be able to swim in one of them and that one should be for "best" (ie the one you look terrific in and which therefore must be worn sparingly as it needs to last for the rest of your life).

Don't forget the mini-library. A typical holiday reading list should include:

- one classic that you have never read but should have;
- one inspirational book that you have never read but should have;
- one trendy Top 10 type book that you have not read but

have pretended that you have and if you don't read it soon everyone will discover you are intellectually bankrupt;

- one important biography that you have never read but should have or one guidebook to country of destination;
- one trashy book with characters named Bliss and Amber.

Remember to plan for all medical emergencies. See your suitcase as a branch of Boots-on-Sea. Consider extending your mortgage so that you can take the full range of pre-sun lotions, sun creams with various factor levels (a selection such as 5, 12, 18 and 25 provides flexibility and is a source of endless discussion) and after-sun "relief" creams for when you get the factor wrong. Take a huge range of over-the-counter stuff to cover everyday ailments plus any old prescription medicines you have lying around.

Contact lens wearers who are paranoid (ie realists) will want to pack two of everything in the likely event that at least one will explode on the plane.

Think cheap. Why purchase a sun hat for £25 when you are going to lose it on the first day? Remember, things only need to last for two weeks because, after the holiday, you will probably never want to wear them again. The only exception to this could be the beach towel. This is going to be your constant companion so don't be afraid to splash out. In fact, why should a beach towel be confined to the beach? Think about doubling it up as a sheet or even as a shawl. That way you could leave the pashmina at home. Just this once.

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Your child's life in their hands

Parents have never been more anxious about who looks after their children. But mothers instinctively know when the relationship is right. By Clare Longrigg

"THE ONE good thing to come out of all the horror of the Woodward case was that people are checking much harder now," says Maggie Dyer of the London Au Pair and Nanny Agency. The trial of Louise Woodward has increased the clamour in the UK for a register of nannies and a professional nanny's qualification, but it is still a largely unregulated area.

Maggie Dyer advises parents to see as many nannies as they can. "New parents tend to put too much emphasis on how well they get on with the nanny. But it's a co-parenting relationship. The most important thing is how well the nanny gets on with the child."

When the match is right, mother and nanny both know it instinctively. And both describe it like love at first sight. "I wanted someone who would be an emotional surrogate, who would give my twins the impression of caring for them and loving them, who would make them feel emotionally secure," says Anna. "It took me three months to find her."

"Margherita walked in and was immediately right. The first time the children met her, within minutes they were crawling all over her, but she didn't seem to mind. She was very quiet and patient and would sit and read for hours. She would plait my daughter's hair, and taught my son to tie his laces, which took about four months."

Publisher Lynn Tattum found a nanny by advertising in *The Lady*. She wanted someone who lived nearby but not in the house, and the woman she found actually moved to be near her. Seven years later, Belinda Allen is still with the family, currently looking after a seven year old, a four year old and a baby (the average time a nanny stays with a London family is 18 months). Such a long-term working relationship takes some negotiation: "We made it up as we went along," says Lynn. "I've always been very careful that she doesn't feel put upon. I don't like to ask her to babysit too often when she has been looking after the children all day."

A good nanny becomes immersed in family life, but if the children get too attached to her, their bond can make a mother feel threatened. Mothers who already feel guilty about leaving their children with another adult all day are likely to feel threatened when the children get fond of the nanny.

"The nanny's never in competition with the mother," says Maggie Dyer. "but I've seen a lot of families let nannies go because they're getting too close to the children."

In Britain, child care is not con-

sidered an important job, and the sample job adverts posted by nannying agencies are revealing. Many are looking for someone "fun", "flexible" and "easy-going". Certainly, at £160 per week in exchange for "sole charge" of a five year old and shared care of a seven and a three year old, the nanny would have to be "fun".

It is not much comfort for her to learn that the family is "informal". When it comes to elastic arrangements, the flexibility is usually on the nanny's side.

Middle-class parents in Nineties Britain are uneasy with the notion of domestic staff. The bleak reality of payment introduces a sour note to a relationship based on mutual trust and affection. When the nanny's children are ill, for example, whose children take precedence?

Antonia, who returned to work on a part-time basis after having two daughters, was surprised to find herself defending what some see as an over-generous arrangement with her nanny. "I consider it a high-pressure job looking after children all day. She gets paid £220 for a four-day week, whether I need her or not. But it's beginning to rankle now that we're strapped for cash. My sister thinks I'm crazy not to use her more: she'd have her running around doing the shopping, cleaning, washing-up. People say 'That girl's exploiting you', but I know the hidden depths to it."

"I do as much as I can for her because the whole system operates on goodwill. She's never quibbled or refused to do something. I want the relationship between her and my children to be as good as it possibly can. The closer the nanny is, the better. You've got to have everybody pulling in the same direction."

When a nanny gets on well with a family, the job only comes to an end against everybody's will - either because the children go to school, or because the mother becomes pregnant again and can't afford to keep a nanny during her maternity leave. For Margherita, leaving Anna's family after four years was heartbreaking. "I always tell myself I'm going to keep my distance, but you can't. I spent a week crying. It was like breaking up with a boyfriend."

Anna managed to find another carer for the twins. She is anxious that the children's relationships with adults should not be continually interrupted. "When Margherita left, they did grieve a lot, they really missed her. But then again, they end up with more people to love and who love them."



The hand that rocks the cradle: Nanny Belinda Allen (left) with baby George and mother Lyn (right)

Neville Elder

'She wanted a slave, not a nanny'

FRAN, 23, looks after three children, aged six, two and nine months. Rose, 27, has been a nanny since she was 18, and currently looks after a year-old boy. Kelly, 20, looks after two children, aged five and 18 months.

Fran: "There was one interview I went to where there was a baby of three months. Everything had to be done just right. She wasn't allowed to go swimming because of the germs, she wasn't allowed to go to the park because of something else. The mother was 35, it was her first child. I got in there and thought: 'No, sorry, I don't like you.'"

Kelly: "I had an interview, they wanted me to work 55 hours a week and to pay me £140 for it, and they expected a hell of a lot more than just nannying. I expect this to be polished and I expect this to be done. I thought: 'No way - you want a slave, you don't want a nanny.'"

Rose: "The first family I worked

for got everything they could out of me. They said: 'Can you wash the kitchen once a week, wash the ironing while the little girl is asleep... When I left that job, I thought: 'I will never be treated like that again.'"

Fran: "In the family I work for, the grandmother hates me. She can't see why she can't look after the children. She resents the fact there's a nanny. She's round every night and takes over from me. And she's looking round for anything - 'Right, what's all this? What hasn't she done? Those knickers aren't ironed properly.' And if she finds fault, she'll be bending the mother's ear."

Rose: "I worked for one family where the mother, who was in her late thirties, was a primary school teacher. James had no manners, he was seven and would only eat with his fingers."

"She said that was fine because he was expressing himself. I had to

put up with it. She had all these right-on ideas, which is fine, but James was so obnoxious."

Fran: "The mother always comes in at meal times, which is the worst time because as soon as the two-year-old sees or hears Mum, the knife and fork go down and the horns come out. I go to get the door and when I get back, she'll be on the dinner table. 'You can't tell me off, she'll say and start flicking peas.'"

"The mother's told me she dreads coming home. I've heard them all screaming - Mum, the children, all of them. The little girl's banging a glass on the table and that smashes everywhere. There's no discipline. I have smacked them because they drive me to that point..."

"At the beginning, I nearly left several times. The older one didn't know how to socialise and used to have panic attacks if I took her to a friend's house. 'Take me home, I don't want to play,' she'd say. I used to go home in tears sometimes as

she just drove me mad. The woman I work for needs a nanny to bring up the children because I really don't think she wanted children in the first place. It's hard when you see kids being brought up like that, but you just have to do the best you can."

"You know they'll be in therapy in 10 years' time."

Rose: "I work for a high-flying executive who is always jetting off. The little boy feels he is missing out, and he'll do anything to get her attention. I am just there for him."

Kelly: "Nannies are never allowed to be ill. If the kids have got a bug and the mum and dad catch it, they'll be off work, guaranteed. But if I catch it, I'm there."

Rose: "I feel I've got to go in no matter what, even if I'm dying. You know there's no one to cover for you if the grandma and grandad don't live locally. I had food poisoning once and went to work."

Fran: "You want to take a day off but you're working out all these lit-

tle ways you can get the children through their day, and you think: 'I might as well go in.'"

Rose: "By the time they reach school age, you just have to start again with another family. The parents don't want you to leave, but they can't afford to pay you."

"When I left my first job after five years, I felt I'd achieved all the things I'd wanted to do with her. It is rewarding because you are a big part of their life."

Fran: "I couldn't handle my children crying for another person. I don't think I could accept someone else having a strong relationship with them."

"I'm getting so close to the older one, it's quite scary. I think now is the time to leave, before she gets any closer. I love her to bits."

"The trouble about leaving is, how is someone else going to bring them up? How are they going to treat them, will they deal with them properly? That's the thing that's holding me back."



Jonathan and Julie Myerson, both caring about sharing a surname

Glynn Griffiths

The name of the game is our perfect partnership

A FAMILY AFFAIR

THIS WEEK: A COUPLE DISCUSS WHY THEY DIDN'T GET MARRIED BUT DO USE THE SAME SURNAME

JULIE MYERSON, 38, bestselling author of three novels, lives in south London with author and dramatist Jonathan Myerson, 38. When their first child was born, Julie decided to change her name from Pike to Myerson by deed poll. They describe their relationship as "a partnership".

Jonathan Myerson: "The background to all this is that I made a foolish marriage in my twenties and was divorced by 26. Time moved on, I met Julie and, as things got more serious, I realised that I didn't want to get married again. To my mind, it only makes sense to do it once."

"I rather imposed this on Julie who, at the time would have happily got married, although as the years have passed, she's become a passionate advocate of never getting married. It only became a problem when our first child was born and she realised she was going to have a different name from her children."

For years, Julie had been walking around with the name of a father she never saw and never wanted to see. When he killed himself, she said that although she didn't want to get married, she also didn't want to have a different name from the children. So she decided to change her name by deed poll. Since she's not very good at getting paperwork done, I was absolutely convinced and content in the knowledge that it would never happen. Then one day she just walked in with the deed of covenant. Instead of getting married and keeping her name, she'd changed her name without getting married. She could have

just taken my name, but I think it was an important statement for her to do it legally."

At the time, there was no professional overlap in our lives because I was - and still am - a dramatist and Julie was in publishing. She then became a novelist and later, I followed in her footsteps. Now I don't know whether to mind or not that we've got the same name. It means the name of Myerson is in the world of fiction, but it's largely hers at the moment. (Of course, that will all change!)

Since Myerson is a rare name in Britain, I presume that people notice it and assume we're related. Since very few couples who work in the same area have the same names, it's quite nice that we do, but it may mean that people compare us.

Not long ago, I approached a literary editor who commissions Julie, and I'm sure she didn't use me because she didn't want two Myersons on the same page.

Still, I'm glad she changed her name. You get interesting situations when you book flights and hotel rooms in the names of Mr Myerson and Miss Myerson. People wonder what's going on. I always use the term "partner" and love watching people trying to work out why we've got the same surname. I enjoy those moments immensely and they'll continue for the rest of my life."

Julie Myerson: "I didn't have a good relationship with my father, and by my late teens he'd virtually stopped seeing me. I didn't see him again until I was 28 and Jonathan insisted that we visit him with our first baby. When he showed no interest in his first grandchild, and was as rejecting as you can be while still being polite, it just confirmed my feelings of rejection."

Two years later, he killed himself, on the night our daughter was born, which I found very freaky, although the timing was probably coincidental. It was a shock, but my feelings for him had long gone and I began to feel that I didn't want his name anymore. I wanted our family to have one name, but not the name I grew up with, which was Pike.

I was 11 when my mother left my father. She remarried and changed her name, so my sister and I grew up with a different name to the rest of the family. That's probably why having one name is a romantic idea for me. When I met Jonathan, I would gladly have married him, but I understood his argument against marrying again. As it turned out, the more permanent our relationship became, the less I felt I needed to marry him, and later I found the experience of having a baby was so romantic that it felt very much like getting married."

I realised that what I wanted wasn't so much the actual mar-

riage, but everything else that went with it, including the name.

In a funny sort of way, I almost felt it was my right. I thought that after having three children who took Jonathan's name, it was also mine to take. Maybe it was a bit rough on him that I was the first to get the name on a book, especially as my first book attracted so much publicity. Still, I'm glad I've only published in the name of Myerson because Pike didn't stand for anything nice at all.

My friends saw my change of name as a bit like having our own marriage. At the time, I didn't see it like that, but in retrospect I can see that's probably what we were doing.

It very much came from me, though - it wasn't something we decided together. We had a party to celebrate and all our friends brought presents, like wedding presents, which was a bit embarrassing because I hadn't meant it like that.

I didn't leave my old name completely behind because around that time Jonathan nicknamed me Pike as a joke. That's typical of our relationship - we send each other up all the time. Even the children now call me Pike when they're cross.

I never felt happy when I was Julie Pike, but everything started to fit into place when I became Julie Myerson.

It's a bit like when you read about people who have had sex changes because they've always felt they're the wrong sex. I'm sure that it's got a lot to do with the fact that I'm happy - probably happier than I've ever been - and I feel very rooted."

After a grubby dispute between Equity and the advertising industry, Britain's finest thespians are at last free to sell washing powder. Nicole Veash gives a tantrum-by-tantrum account of the voice-over war



The bad guys: Cilla (left) said her bit for a supermarket while Stephen Berkoff (centre) was caustically unrepentant about his burger deal. The good guy: Helen Mirren (right) refused to do airline ads

It was hell, darling, sheer hell

THERE'S BEEN war among the thespians of late - frayed tempers, backbiting, even some out-and-out name-calling. But just over a week ago there was resolution, a cathartic end to a long and painful struggle. Yes, the tiff between the advertising industry and the actors' union, Equity, is over. Well, almost. This long-running dispute may have passed you by, but for thousands of jobbing actors it was serious stuff.

1958: the beginning
At the dawn of commercial television an agreement was signed between Equity and the advertising industry. These were "innocent" days, as one Equity spokesman described them, when actors were paid in blocks of ten ads, or "spots" as they were then quaintly known. Things continued happily for many a long year, with actors getting a fee for the initial studio session and each subsequent repeat. But eventually this cosy relationship came crashing down.

1991
The satellite and cable explosion changed the game - suddenly, thousands of extra ads were being made. Instead of basing fees on the "spot" system, Equity, the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (the agencies) and interested parties, such as the production companies, thrashed out an agreement which, in Equity's words, "revolutionised" the system. Instead of being paid in blocks of ads, actors were paid in accordance with the ratings: if your lips happened to brush seductively against a Cadbury's Flake during a *Coronation Street* ad break, you could expect big bucks. Everyone was happy, until...

November 1996
The 1991 agreement was about to expire. Ad agencies, miffed that clients were, in their eyes, paying way over the top for actors' services, wanted to shave off cash from both the top and minimum end of the fee structure, which started at just £70 per voiceover session.

With some leading thespians commanding tens of thousands of pounds for a campaign, including repeat fees, agencies said that their patience and, bizarrely, their budgets, were wearing thin. They wanted to curb the earnings of such voice-over giants as 'King' Edd Reitel, the vocal chameleon who made his name voicing politicians on *Spitting Image*, or Miriam Margolyes, the matronly actress famous for advertising chocolate in honeyed tones, by trying to ensure that non-visual artists were paid less than visual artists. Equity refused to agree to the IPA's terms, ordering their members either "only do adverts to finance serious projects" or, at the other end of the spectrum, to make ends meet.

February 1997
Then it got silly. According to the ever-helpful but nameless Equity spokesman, the ad industry "dug their heels in and wouldn't budge". But the nice chap from IPA said simply, "Well, they walked out and refused to talk." And so, inevitably...

May 1997
With impeccable timing, Equity called a strike - the day that Tony Blair, Irvine patron, took office. However, they allowed members to continue working if they were offered terms under the 1991 agreement.

August 1997
Things muddled along unhappily for a while until both sides met for informal talks to try to break the stalemate. Once again, Equity asked the advertisers to relax their terms. They refused.

"We had a mass meeting," says the valiant Equity knight, "and we decided not to tolerate their ridiculous suggestions. We had no choice but to take a stronger line of action."

September 1997
And thus it was decreed: no actor, no matter how matter how rested or broke, should take ad work. "Some people endured considerable hardship," says the actors' representative. Wild tales began circulating in the press like that of five unknowns from Glasgow who turned down a three year contract with McEwans for £50,000 each or Scottish thesp, Dennis Lawson's tale of an unemployed actor with two small children who turned down a £25,000 contract rather than break the strike.

November 1997
In what must rank as one of the calmest, head-held-high strikes on record, the big names took their stand. Helen Mirren, for example, calmly turned down a Virgin Atlantic contract, said to be worth anywhere between £30,000 and £100,000, for the sake of solidarity. Voice-over giants like Brian Cox and Bill Paterson stood four-square. Chris Evans, not even an Equity member, refused to do an ad for nappies.

Those "voice professionals" as they are called in the trade, claim they noticed a perceptible decline in quality of ads. Stories leaked out about desperate admen hiring amateurs for their "fresh style". Paul Cardwell, the man behind the Creature Comfort electricity ads, got a tax inspector from Bristol to do the tortoise voice. They recorded 132 hours of tape to get just 40 seconds of quality ad time.

Humorous but hungry Equity strikers got extra laughs out of unsubstantiated rumours about admen taking leading voiceover roles themselves. Serious, albeit partisan, ad-watchers muttered about the lack of quality in the current crop of campaigns, something denied by the IPA to this day. "We managed more than adequately without them," my man tartly said.

December 1997
The pitched battle intensified. The run-up to Christmas is traditionally a lucrative time in the ad world. But the actors kept their resolve, with little indication of weakening at this tempting time.

Until, that is, actor/writer Steven Berkoff got hot under the collar and broke ranks, agreeing to do a series of five voiceovers for McDonald's. Leading Equity lights Sir Derek Jacobi, Robert Powell, Prunella Scales and Tim Piggett-Smith saw red. "It's just as well he's practised a one-man show because that may well be all he's left with," hissed Piggett-Smith.

In his defence, Berkoff said: "I suppose when you are a successful wage earner, it is easy to breathe your high moral disdain." "Berkoff had a destabilising effect on morale," says my Equity friend. "He caused real outrage but he also paved the way for a handful of voiceover agencies to break the strike."

Berkoff, though, quivered with righteous indignation. "It is such an iniquitous act that I have no words for it," he said when Equity said they were "appalled" at his actions. "To publicly humiliate me by putting me in the stocks so that a bunch of second-rate actors can hurt their moral squibs at me is beyond redemption."

"If by chance, I had made some mistake or error of judgment, then there is a machinery within Equity to chastise or castigate or warn me to desist. If you have erred on the wrong side, then they should take you to task, but they should not spill the beans and publicly demean you as if you are some kind of moral reprobate."

Stephen Berkoff remains a member of Equity.

April 1998
When TV's highest-paid Scouser, Cilla Black, was caught up in the storm it became evident that things weren't going wholly to plan. The nation's matchmaker unwittingly, so her agents claimed, became a blackleg after she agreed to do voiceovers for Safeway. Ms Black's representatives said she knew nothing of the strike, despite it being in full swing for seven months.

Cilla was not the only one to fall out of step. Edd Reitel, the voice-over king, announced he was resigning from Equity, saying, "The Spice Girls don't have a union. The Beatles didn't have a union - actors don't need one." The strike was "misguided and pointless," he said, while Equity's "hypocritical policies" made him sick. "When you join Equity you are joining an exclusive club full of fear and bitchiness," he said. "There is no element of free thought."

June 1998
Just under a fortnight ago, though, the two sides started talking again, both, predictably, claiming victory. "We are advising our members to work under the terms and conditions of the 1991 agreement," says the Equity spokesman. "We have got to start talking again and as long as these minimum requirements are in force, we think a significant point has been made."

So if the status quo that existed before the strike has been legitimised, surely nothing has been won? The IPA man tries to clarify things. "Things ain't over yet, but there is scope to move forward. We will be having talks about talks and we hope things will be less fraught in the future."

And finally back to Equity. "All our members were behind us," gushes the spokesman. And how many is that? "Well, if you include all our dead ones, who support us in spirit, that's 200,000."

Which goes to prove one thing: for actors, life is one big drama.

Epilogue
All that solidarity was quick to fade, and it was reported at the weekend that Tony Booth, Cherie Blair's father, was leading an attempted left-wing coup against Equity's moderate ruling group, which includes Sirs David Hare and Derek Jacobi. Timothy West, Juliet Stevenson, Dawn French and Julie Walters, criticising them for their "inept handling" of the dispute. In next month's elections, the new president is expected to be the soft-left reformist, Tony Robinson. No doubt Baldrick has a cunning plan to keep the union together.

Crocks of rock turn into good-time boys

UP TO a year ago nobody could have accused Belfast Civic Authority of being an institution driven by fun, but like everything in Ulster these days, strange things are afoot.

The "Ulster Says No" banner that (dis)graced the city hall for years has been quietly retired, and after dark decades of Free Presbyterian fundamentalists picketing so much as a gospel pop gig in a church hall, the kids want to rock. Their parents, too, if the Van 'n' Bob demographic was anything to go by.

The open-air concert has been a rarity in Northern Ireland, but last year's U2 concert - attended by 40,000 in these same Botanic Gardens - set in motion a trend as irreversible

POP
VAN MORRISON
AND BOB DYLAN
BOTANIC GARDENS, BELFAST

as the peace process. People want a little fun, and on Friday night they set out to get it from Bob Dylan and Van Morrison. Bizarrely, two of rock's infamous curmudgeons had come out for the same thing. Fronting a five-piece band with no keyboards but with Dobro and mandolin helping deliver a shimmering guitar soundscape, Dylan was here to confound the sceptics. He even spoke, introducing an old Irish folk song, "Stephen's Green", that, to judge from the looks his band

gave him, was a spur-of-the-moment decision. "Never tried that before," he said. "Hey, it wasn't bad."

And neither were the classics he let us hear - "It Ain't Me Babe", "Don't Think Twice", even "This Wheel's on Fire" for goodness sake. The bulk of the set was big and electric though - a pulsing ZZ Top-ish behemoth that lent a freshness to the likes of "Serve Somebody" and "Under the Red Sky". The highlight was a gloriously extended "Tangled Up in Blue", with Bob duck-walking the stage, harmonica in one hand and all but conducting the roars of applause with the other. The voice may have been cracked like an ancient sculpture but without the whine of parody. Al-

most beyond belief, Van was up for a good time, too. It was definitely his crowd. Opening with "Days Like This" it was unashamedly a song everybody knew - a song used by the Government in a series of TV peace commercials. After it, he spoke. This is a man who gets through entire concerts in silence.

"That was from the peace gig we did with Bill Clinton," he said. "This one's from the last record." He even told us what it was called. His new band were fabulous even by his own exacting standards, swathing everything with a light, airy soulful shimmer and trouncing Bob's crew for sheer dynamics. Even the singularly unlovely refrain of "Don't Let The

Bastards Grind Me Down" (from *Rainforest*) sounded like it just might be spiritually uplifting.

"Any requests?" he asked, and he meant it. Some 15,000 people roared, and the 1989 hit "Whenever I Climb Up" (sic) Shines His Light On Me" was the result. Artistically self-obsessed and hateful of the music biz he may be, but when he wants to be - as he did on Friday - he is brilliant and inspirational. Among the best there is.

Bob Dylan and Van Morrison play Wembley Arena, 27 June (0181 902 0902). A version of this review appeared in later editions of *The Independent* on Saturday
COLIN HARPER



And darkly flows the Don

FOR THEIR debut production, Theatre Highland have commissioned a version of Molière's uneasy comedy by the novelist, Carl MacDougall, whose reworking follows hard on the heels of Ian Heggie's effort earlier this year for Edinburgh's Theatre Babel Company.

Theatre Highland have struck the better bargain, the easy flow of MacDougall's dialogue - geographically transposed to the Highlands of the 1640s and subtly updated - in stark contrast to Heggie's over-crafted neologising. MacDougall foregrounds Molière's concern with the moral and religious context surrounding the Don's lecherous, rather than these lower elements in themselves, lining up his hubristic amorality against the characters who importune him to repent his ways.

From the Don's defiant dec-

THEATRE
DON JUAN
SPECTRUM CENTRE
INVERNESS

laration that "I have it in me to love the whole world", to his wily observation that "all the hypocrite needs to see them through is a touch of humility", the play's events highlight the many shades of grey between the supposed opposites of licentiousness and piety. Mediated by the uncomfortable - though often comically - fence-sitting Murochy, Don Juan's issues are opened up to encompass wider qualities: freedom and law, flesh and spirit, expediency and principle.

The period background of the Covenanting era - artfully reflected in Andy Thorburn's original live score, which draws on Scottish music and instrumen-

tation of the time - adds weight to MacDougall's treatment without any strain of contrivance. His efforts, though, to intertwine heavenly punishment with a Gaelic clan vendetta, a confusion further muddled by its embodiment in a pair of Celtic spirit-figures as the avenging ministers, are needlessly distracting.

Vincent Friel as the Don commands the stage with all the volupitous arrogance one could wish for, his languidly larger-than-life rhetoric enlivened by a distinct Sean Connery drawl. While carrying off the grandstanding inherent in the part, however, Friel doesn't overlook the subtleties, bringing out the underlying enigma of the Don's behaviour through hints at deeper motivations: a glimpse of wounded, jealous vulnerability here, a flash of the authentically demonic there. Malcolm Freeman gives a mercurially

complementing performance in the twin-anchor role of Murochy, his opportunistic dodgings and diversions between attempts to save his employer's soul and his own self-serving pragmatism, providing both a generous vein of sharply fashioned humour, and a microscopic précis of the key arguments.

The rest of the cast have far less rewarding work to do - though plenty of it, with 14 characters to play between them. The subsidiary parts are emphatically that, but the cast deliver a succession of carefully fashioned cameos to round out an engagingly multi-dimensional, tightly constructed production, and a debut that bodes brightly for the company's future.

Tours the Highlands and Islands until 8 July
SUE WILSON

'Rake's Progress' stumbles

IT'S THE thought that counts, I suppose. At the Barbican last Monday the Royal Ballet paid tribute to Dame Ninette de Valois, who was 100 on 6 June. The gala was not only to thank "Madam" for founding British ballet but also to remind everyone of her talents as a choreographer. Nice idea, but the company did not do it justice.

The *Rake's Progress* was made in 1935 and the 40-minute narrative animates Hogarth with precision footwork. This revival was oddly lifeless. Stuart Cassidy gave a conscientious portrayal of the young man driven to the madhouse, but he couldn't make us give a damn. Peter Abegglen's cameo as Raving Madness was far more moving. Sarah Wildor's Betrayed Girl's innocence was telegraphed by the touches of folk dance in her steps.

Monday's central section was

BALLET
THE ROYAL BALLET
DE VALOIS TRIBUTE
BARBICAN, LONDON

a series of extracts from de Valois's ballets introduced by golden oldies such as Sir Peter Wright. Irek Mukhamedov danced Satan's solo from *Job* and Darcey Bussell gave us her Black Queen from *Checkmate*. The most enjoyable snippet was Bruce Sansom and Sarah Wildor in *Gods Go A-Begging*. Sansom, a princely exponent of the cleanest English style, danced with aristocratic finesse and partnered with tender courtesy.

Come Tuesday and these de Valois diversissements were replaced by a new Ashley Page, *Cheating, Lying, Stealing*. If you hadn't seen a Page work before, you would probably have found this dislocated, cod-

Forsythean, sexual sparring rather sexy and the elliptical narrative intriguing. Veteran Page-watchers were getting numb bums after 10 minutes. The 14 dancers perform against Anthony McDonald's backdrop, depicting a road heading off to a vanishing point in the Midwest. There are some tall huts for drying fishing nets which glide about the place and at one point the seating area upstage bursts into flames. The twin scores are by David Lang and Michael Gordon and the whole thing is dressed fit for a catwalk: navy blue capri pants twinned with matching see-through blouses (and that's just the men).

But, but - the work does provide a vehicle for Irek Mukhamedov and Viviana Durante, one of the few exciting partnerships the Royal Ballet has forged in recent years. Both were superb. The smoldering

Mukhamedov powered through the slicing leaps and furious turns with masterly ease. Unfortunately, Page's confrontational and doggedly humourless ballets *noirs* only skim the surface of this couple's emotional and stylistic range.

For pudding, we got Frederick Ashton's ravishing, but pitiless, pastiche *Birthday Offering*, from 1956. The women's faces were fixed in a rictus of glee as they motored through the steps but they weren't fooling anyone. Only Sylvie Guillem seemed worthy of her variation. In the *pas de deux* Jonathan Cope gently battered her back and forth into a languid series of two-way pirouettes as if playing with a miraculous new toy. Monday's gala was an over-generous three-and-a-half hours, but Guillem was worth the wait.

LOUISE LEVENE

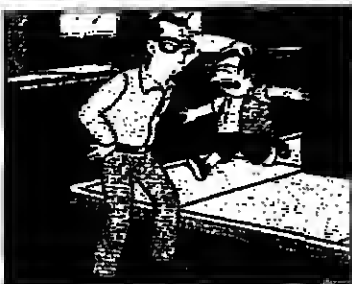
Behind every Homer is a very tall man

Why doesn't 'The Simpsons' have many scripts by women?
Because it's 'guy humour', says one of the head writers.
Charlotte O'Sullivan sees her dream job go down the pan

Yellow-hued, three-fingered, dysfunctional, the Simpsons family still rule the TV waves. Over here, *The Simpsons* is virtually Sky's sole claim to fame and, despite duff scheduling, it is BBC2's second most popular show, with an audience of about 4 million. But how much do we really know about *The Simpsons*? Not a lot.

An opportunity to find out more presents itself in the form of Ian Maxtone-Graham, a head writer on the show since 1995, taking a break in London. I know what to look for: the Very Tall Man character, who appears in the episode "22 Short Films About Springfield", is based on him. I spot him immediately - he is indeed long-limbed, scrawny, too, with froggy blue eyes and a wryly helpless manner. "Hi," he says. "The PR woman wants to come along. Just in case I do a diatribe about Sky."

Such casual irreverence is typical of *The Simpsons* style. Though owned by Rupert Murdoch's Fox Network, the show regularly presents Fox executives as morally retarded "jokes" and has Murdoch popping up as "an evil billionaire" in an upcoming episode. Meanwhile, Microsoft's Bill Gates is portrayed as a vicious capitalist thug. How do *The Simpsons* team get away with this stuff?



Maxtone-Graham beams. "We're in a very special position. No one wants to be the big ogre stamping out Bart. Murdoch doesn't mind at all, touch wood. But one thing we didn't do with Gates was ask him first. If you ask someone and they say 'No, I'll sue', you're in a tough legal position." He gives a wicked smile. "But if you just go ahead and have an actor do the voice, you're in a better position because they [the celebrity] never said no."

He says working on *The Simpsons* is a dream. The writing team usually consists of about 12 individuals, with an average age of 30 (at 38, Ian is, in his own words, "a fossil"). One person is responsible for writing the basic script (Ian is best known for "Burns, Baby Burns", which featured Rodney Dangerfield as the son of Monty Burns) but then everyone pitches in "to try and make it that much better".

The atmosphere, so Maxtone-Graham claims, is easy-going. In-jokes are encouraged. The team, particularly John Swartzwelder, have a penchant for old-time American figures. "Hobos carrying bindles, and bar-car tramps," intones Ian dreamily. "We just love hobo humour. Matt [Groening, *The Simpsons* creator] doesn't approve, he says none of us have ever seen a hobo and it's true! And they love cross-overs - they're currently writing an episode in which the Simpson family appear on *The Jerry Springer* show."

The surprise is that not all the writers are pop culture junkies. Though a *Saturday Night Live* veteran, Maxtone-Graham is a literature worm (he sneaks into Shakespeare classes at UCLA), and apart from Monty Python, hates TV. "I pretty much never turn it on," he snorts, "the shows are so crappy." He had barely seen *The Simpsons* before he started working on it. Was this a problem? He lets out a belly laugh. "We were pitching new names for characters and I pitched the names of all three members of the Flanders family [the Simpsons' neighbours]: Ned, Rod and Todd. Everyone was looking at me like, 'Tune in, eight o'clock Sundays!'"

Famous for their attention to detail, it turns out the whole group have a problem with minutiae. They're always mixing up Rod and Todd, for starters. "Todd's supposed to be the taller one, but that changes and so do the voices," Maxtone-Graham knows such carelessness drives "the beetle-browed people on the Internet" to distraction. "They seem to have no life except *The Simpsons*," he complains. "They see everything as part of a vast plan, but boy, is there ever no vast plan!" The fans took particular exception to "A Star Is Burns", in which Jay Sherman from *The Critic* comes to judge a film festival in Springfield. "I loved that one," says Maxtone-Graham.



Scriptwriter Ian Maxtone-Graham, the inspiration behind the 'Very Tall Man' Nicola Kurtz

"but they thought it broke reality or something." He shrugs. "Go figure! That's why they're on the Internet and we're writing the show." It's nice to know *The Simpsons* scriptwriters aren't aiming their stuff at a nerdy, intellectual elite. So can anyone join this gang? Women, for example? He confesses that there have never been many women on the team, "and right now, it's as male as it's ever been, there are no female writers on staff". He justifies this by saying "the dominant characters tend to be male - Bart and Homer occupy a lot of the real estate - a lot of that humour's kind of guy humour."

I'm amazed. I've never felt excluded as a female. More to the point, Marge and Lisa seem crucial to the show's success. "Oh sure," agrees Maxtone-Graham with a petronizing smile. "The Lisa shows are great. You get the nice, sweet, observant

stuff with her. Really, there are two kinds of episodes, one with Homer playing the hilarious buffoon, the other soter thing with Marge and Lisa." I'm beginning to grind my teeth, here. No wonder women find it so hard work on *The Simpsons* - such a perception of the gender divide harks back to the last century. Maxtone-Graham insists it gets uncomfortable when there are female writers in the room. "We make awful scatological, sexual jokes. It's not like we sit around the table with our dicks out, but having a woman in the room... I think it changes the tenor."

So there goes my dream job. Still reeling, I inquire about the future. The recent murder of regular player Phil Hartman seems strangely ominous - the intrusion of tabloid chaos into pristine cartoon satire. Suddenly less sunny, Maxtone-Graham admits the effect was devastating. "I was never under the im-

pression that it was a perfect marriage," he says, raising his eyebrows, "but when I heard the news... that sort of thing changes your world." And the world of *The Simpsons*? His response couldn't be more candid: "I think we should pack it in soon and I think we will - we're running out of ideas."

Consumers needn't worry. Two more series are currently being put together - and there's so much in every *Simpsons* episode that they bear repeated viewing. As Maxtone-Graham is rightly able to boast, "they're going to be re-run for ever". So, don't look to *The Simpsons* for a grand plan, or hold your breath for women writers. But if you want iconoclasm and immortal wit, stay tuned.

The Simpsons is screened twice daily on Sky One and intermittently on BBC2

Sex on the brain

Feminists blame society for gender differences.
A new series begs to differ. By Gerard Gilbert

AMANDA SMITH is a handsome, sensible, almost tweedy-looking young woman who grew up hating gender stereotyping. She and her husband Lionel were adamant about bringing their children up "in a nice, asexual way", and their two boys and a girl were given dolls, cars and other non-violent toys to play with.

Now seven-year-old Rose spends hours playing happy families with her doll's house, while Amanda came home to find two-year-old Lawrence had tied Barbie to a chair leg and was in the process of beheading her. Gender will out, it seems, which is the premise for a provocative new three-part series on Channel 4, *Why Men Don't Iron*.

This is a rigorous scientific series that sets out to show that men and women have different brains; that we're wired differently. "Feminist philosophies say differences between the sexes are the result of socialisation," explains series co-producer Jim Meyer. "We're seeking to prove that there are strong biological forces as well."

Meyer's co-producer is biologist turned documentary-maker Ann Moir, and the series is based on her 1988 book *Brainsex*. "The emergence of new technology has allowed scientists to look at living human brains at work," she says. "Among the conclusions are that boys and girls start behaving stereotypically at a very early age; new Men are a fantasy; and the 'glass ceiling' preventing women from getting to the top of their professions is partly made out of their own hormones."

The series does not give space to dissenting voices. "We chose not to use the programme as a vehicle for debate," explains Meyer. "It's supposed to be a serious science programme exploring the biology of gender difference. The social debate can carry on afterwards." One suspects it will.

Why Men Don't Iron begins on 23 June at 9pm on Channel 4

THE RATINGS

TERRESTRIAL

No surprises here - though it's strange to see a chart that doesn't contain an antipodean soap offering

PROGRAMME	TOTAL (MILLIONS)
1 = EastEnders (Tue/Sun)	16.98
2 = Coronation Street (Mon)	16.98
3 = Coronation Street (Wed)	16.59
4 = Coronation Street (Sun)	15.84
5 = EastEnders (Thu/Sun)	15.78
6 = EastEnders (Mon/Sun)	14.70
7 = Coronation Street (Fri)	14.35
8 = Diana: Secrets (ITV)	12.79
9 = Emmerdale (Tue)	12.29
10 = Where The Heart Is (ITV)	11.83

TERRESTRIAL NON-SOAPS

... And no surprises here, either. Princess Diana rules from beyond the grave, while Sarah Lancashire's gentle drama series fetches up close behind

PROGRAMME	TOTAL
1 Diana: Secrets (ITV)	12.79
2 Where The Heart Is (ITV)	11.83
3 World's Dumbest Drivers (ITV)	9.09
4 Stars in Their Eyes (ITV)	8.96
5 News At Ten (ITV, Mon)	8.50
6 Children's Hospital (BBC1)	8.55
7 Eye Spy (ITV)	8.47
8 Wheel Of Fortune (ITV)	8.29
9 Wycliffe (ITV)	8.27
10 Lloyd-Webber (ITV)	8.13

SATELLITE AND CABLE

All on Sky 1. The next biggest audience was the 370,000 for *The Rock* on Sky Movies Screen 2. Thank God for *The Simpsons*

PROGRAMME	TOTAL
1 The Simpsons (Sun, 6.30pm)	0.83
2 Friends	0.77
3 The X-Files	0.71
4 Stargate SG-1	0.66
5 The Simpsons (Tue, 7.0pm)	0.62
6 The Simpsons (Mon, 7.0pm)	0.59
7 Star Trek: Voyager	0.59
8 The Simpsons (Wed, 7.0pm)	0.57
9 The Simpsons (Thu, 7.0pm)	0.56
10 The Simpsons (Sun, 6.0pm)	0.56

CHANNEL 5

This may come as a surprise to those who cannot get Channel 5 (and to those who can).

PROGRAMME	TOTAL
1 Them! (Film)	1.58
2 It Was Him Or Us	1.53
3 Against Their Will	1.53
4 Armed And Innocent	1.48
5 The Surrogate	1.40
6 Family Affairs (Tue/Wed)	1.07
7 Family Confidential	1.04
8 Family Affairs (Thur/Fri)	1.03
9 Family Affairs (Wed/Thur)	0.98
10 The Courtyard	0.91

Copyright: BARB

Wackos, jocks and naked lies

Jasper Rees examines the American obsession with self-examination

THIS IS AMERICA, a five-part documentary on Radio Three, explains how America uses the broadcast media to gaze at its own navel. At one point in his fortnight's odyssey round the States, its presenter, Ian Peacock, chanced to participate in a moment of perfect broadcasting circularity. A man was standing on a street corner in Los Angeles hawking tickets to a CBS television show. Peacock started recording him, whereupon a camera crew showed up and proceeded to film Peacock taping the ticket-seller, which Peacock in turn commented on. It was, in other words, a report of a report of a report.

American television and its audiences have come to know each other so well that this type of reflexivity is no longer a side order: it's part of the main dish. You get knowingsness in American TV the way you get fries with your burger. There's a cable station called the E! Channel which is entirely given over to the subject of television. *The Larry Sanders Show*, the most sophisticated and witty television programme in America, is about a television programme.

It's hardly surprising that Americans are so familiar with a medium whose grammatical rules they more or less invented. By the time the average American reaches the age of 72, he or she will have watched 12 years of television. This daily intake acts as a kind of deposit into an ever-accumulating bank of information. Fittingly, the name of Peacock's series is not original, but borrowed from an American



Zoo radio - a mission to be shocking and wacky

radio show. *The American This American Life* is broadcast on National Public radio once a week from a pier on Lake Michigan. The suitably reflexive name of its host is Ira Glass, a Woody Allen soundalike who sets himself a weekly mission to define America; his catchphrase is, "In America, meaning is up for grabs." So what is the meaning of the American media?

The British *This American Life* investigates the theory posited by Jean Baudrillard that the media is America's Polaroid, the instant snapshot it constantly takes of itself to see how it's looking today. "Baudrillard said you have to enter the fiction of America when you get here," says Peacock, "and accept that it's not a country but a dream. America, the idea, appears first in the media, then in real life. He looks at America as a sort of hyperreality, as the world's only self-conscious utopia."

That self-consciousness manifests itself as a kind of insecurity

lic access TV is a safety valve through which society's wackos let the hot air out of their system. Peacock says it's no more harmful than hospital radio. "Nobody ever listens to it," he says, "but it's terribly good therapy for the people who work on it."

The series fetches up in Los Angeles, which underpins more than anywhere else Baudrillard's assertion that in America "the cities come straight out of the movies, rather than vice versa." The programme is called *The Truman Show* after the hit film starring Jim Carrey as the unwitting star of a real-life soap. The corollary of the American drama is the American lie, and Los Angeles is the world capital of bare-faced mendacity.

"It seems whenever you want to cancel an appointment you kill a relative," Peacock says. "On one occasion somebody unexpectedly had to fly off to New York a few minutes before my interview with him. I went to the TV channel where this person worked in order to interview some executive instead, but then I had to go outside to wait for a cab. As I was waiting this person came round the corner presenting a trailer for his programme. But there was no way in which I could have walked back into that building and said, 'This is a lie, because that would have broken the illusion. The primitive undergraduate thesis of America did come true in the making of the series - it's about dreaming and lying and myths and tall tales.'"

It doesn't matter how many people are actually watching this ritualistic self-validation. One programme in the series is about Manhattan public access television. It's here that white supremacists, African Zionists and transsexual evangelists are allowed to disseminate their views unvetted to a world that has better things to do than watch. Pub-

This Is America begins on 23 June, Radio 3, 9.15pm

BITE:98

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NETWORK

هكذا من الأصل

Signal failure caused by the wrong type of spam

THINK FOR a moment about signal-to-noise ratio. Signal is the desirable, useful, interesting part, while noise is the scratchy, ear-splitting or otherwise objectionable piece.

Example: I'm sitting in a packed 757 somewhere over America's desert south-west, heading for Orlando, Florida, home of Disney World. Children are screaming, flight attendants are hanging trolleys, the plane is rocking through turbulence. A silly movie is adding to the cabin's chaos.

Suddenly, clear and rich, the voice of Aretha Franklin belts out the feminist anthem "Respect". For three minutes, the noise of the Boeing and its occupants recedes into the background. Aretha's "signal" cuts through a powerful lot of "noise".

We who were young when radio was one of the most popular and prevalent cultural media had direct experience with teasing signal out of noise, especially if we lived in the

boondocks. Because, at night, when conditions were right, radio waves could be relied on to skip over the horizon, bringing audible wonders from far away Meccas which we could only dream about in our backwater burghs.

Young Chris Gulker would lay under the bedcovers in a small Pennsylvania town, with a large, valve-powered radio pulled close to the side of the bed. The volume was turned to a whisper, in the hopes of bringing in Wolfman Jack from distant California without waking a parent in the dead of night.

Young Bob Marley would stand in the gathering dusk, crowded around one of the few and treasured radios in a Jamaican ghetto, while some expert hand tried to bring in far away New Orleans. Those Fifties radio stations were broadcasting the birth of Rock 'n' Roll live from clubs and bars.

Imagine that scene: the signal would fade into the static, ob-

soured by loud crackles from lightning somewhere over the Caribbean. Frustration and anticipation as the dial was rocked back and forth; then the signal would rise out of the background crackle, at first faintly, then louder. Suddenly, a syncopated, backbeat rhythm, a brass and frantic piano lead: Professor Longhair or, perhaps, Fats Domino, would cut the sultry, Jamaican air.

Marley and his peers listened in as an epochal cultural revolution was taking place in Louisiana. They would go on to invent their own music form, Reggae, almost out of thin air. One wonders what might have happened if their ancient radios had never been able to raise the signal above the noise?

So signal, by and large, is good and noise is bad, to put a subjective spin on the topic. Which gets me to spam, which is what this column is really about.

Spam, of course, refers to un-



CHRIS GULKER

Spammers, in my experience, are a larcenous bunch, not content to be merely creepy

wanted electronic communications. Some would say that spam properly means "off-topic post-

ings in Usenet news groups", but the term has come to cover unwanted e-mail as well.

Spammers bother to flood the Internet with their solicitations for toe-fungus remedy, printer toner cartridges, phone sex, cheesy software, cheap hardware, shady investment offerings, baldness cures, get-rich-quick schemes, pornography, new-age religion, chain letters and a wealth of other dubious stuff, because they think they will get rich this way. They figure there must be a few suckers in every million or so people. If you troll enough millions, you may be able to get hundreds of thousands of suckers. Thus, this crowd relentlessly chew up massive amounts of Internet bandwidth.

Indeed, they are so rapacious that to mention annoying that most legitimate Internet businesses try to keep them off the air. There's also the issue that, unlike junk mailers, who have to pay to de-

liver their offers to your door, spammers make you and me pay the bill. In places like the UK, where phone companies still adhere to the Cro-Magnon practice of charging by the minute or second, spam shows up on your phone bill. It also shows up in slower Web page loading and file downloads.

Since Internet service providers and online services get so many complaints about spam, they have to hire people to handle the complaints and track down the perpetrators, and this expense gets passed on to the customer, one way or another.

Since the Net is largely self-policed, ISPs do each other the favour of kicking spammers off their service as soon as they are alerted to them. Spammers, for their part, buy increasingly sophisticated software to cover their tracks, while ISPs share ever more sophisticated techniques for blocking them, in a kind of spam arms

race. And spammers, in my experience, are a larcenous bunch, not content to be merely creepy. They routinely snatch services and expensive bandwidth from the unsuspecting with tricks like hijacking other people's mail servers, analogous to taking your car for a joy ride, and returning it with an empty tank. Even though you've got your car back, you're out of pocket for the use of the vehicle and the cost of the petrol.

So, these guys are about noise - they make the noise level go higher in a medium that is already pretty noisy, to judge by the popularity of search engines.

Pity the young genius somewhere who, unlike Bob Marley, misses the signal on the Net, clogged by spam. Aretha Franklin may be the greatest example of signal to noise in the universe, but unlike Aretha, these creeps have no Respect. crg@gulker.com

The cracks in Bill's Windows

Microsoft will launch its new operating system this week amid a sea of uncertainty. By Andrew Marshall

THE MOST keenly anticipated event of the year for personal computer users is just around the corner. Yet next Thursday's launch of Windows 98, Microsoft's latest PC operating system, has failed to create quite the excitement of earlier releases.

This is partly because of the shadow that hangs over Bill Gates's company in the form of a federal antitrust case, currently making its way through the machinery of the US government. But it also reflects broader uncertainties about the Windows platform and about Microsoft's future. While its dominance is unassailable, and the US Department of Justice (DOJ) aside, virtually unassailable, these uncertainties point to problems down the road for the software behemoth.

Windows 98 is a step up, but only a step, from Windows 95. It is not a revolution and Microsoft is not touting it as one, unlike Windows 95 three years ago. Reviewers have praised its speed of set-up and shut-down, and its ability to handle new hardware and multimedia. It will fix a lot of the glitches in Windows 95, and some people will find it more convenient to buy Windows 98 than spend time fiddling with Windows 95.

Of course, the central point about Windows 98 is the tighter integration of the Internet Explorer browser, but since that is the main bone of contention between Microsoft and the DOJ, it's a little tricky to trumpet it.

Dataquest, the market information company, predicts that Windows 98 will lead the operating

system market this year, with 56.7 million unit shipments - about half the total world-wide sales of operating systems. But most will be sold with new PCs. Chris Le Tooc, of Dataquest, says he expects the interest in upgrades to be "modest to low", at around 5.5 million units.

Windows 98 is only one of the products that Microsoft had hoped to launch this year. It had expected to release an upgrade of Windows NT, its operating system for corporate networks. But the release of Windows NT 5 is still months away. Microsoft has sometimes seemed uncertain as to the target market for Windows 98, veering between suggesting that corporate users should switch to NT and advocating Windows 98 for everyone. "They're trying to sell it as all things to all people," says Jim Penhune of Yankee Group, an IT consulting firm.

The company, which seems such a monolith from outside, is fragmented within. "Inside the firm, it's like a bunch of privately held companies competing vigorously," says Rob Enderle of Giga Information Group, a computer consulting company. The Windows 98 team tussled with the NT team over marketing, but in the end Windows 98 seems to be pushed more at consumers than at the business market. That has led to confusion, Enderle says.

Windows 98 is, in many ways, a transitional episode.

"This is the last hurrah for the current architecture," Le Tooc says. "The business user transition from

Windows 95 to NT ... is gradually emerging."

Microsoft has said that all its future operating systems will be based on NT, and its prospects will be vital for the company's continued dominance of the market. "Their real aim is building [market] share for NT," Penhune says. But Microsoft has yet to convince many businesses of the virtues of NT. Sun Microsystems, Oracle and other competitors will try to use the delayed release of NT 5 to weaken Microsoft's grip by developing their own products based on the Java programming language. And the same competition issues regarding the Internet Explorer browser refer to Windows NT. The DOJ has so far made its moves only on Windows 95 and 98, but action on NT could be just around the corner.

In the longer term, a shift towards network computing poses a strategic threat to Microsoft, but one that it is already engaged in. Some analysts believe that Java is a serious challenger, while others think it is massively overblown. It may be that the competitive advantage shifts towards the providers of networks, where applications reside on the server, but Microsoft has dodged its way through other innovations - such as the emergence of the Internet, which it almost botched - and few are ready to discount it now.

Above all, the competitors have signally failed so far to dent Microsoft's position of strength. Windows 98 is another small step towards cementing that.



Bill Gates at the heavily hyped launch of Windows 95

Reuters

SHOULD YOU BUY WINDOWS 98?

Five reasons to buy it:

- 1) A number of new tools in Windows 98, such as a Maintenance Wizard, allow you to manage your system more efficiently.
- 2) The appearance of Windows 98 is so similar to its predecessor that you won't need to spend hours relearning the basics if you are an existing Windows 95 user. For first-timers, there is also a better tutorial.
- 3) Adding new hardware, such as scanners and sound cards, should be much simpler.
- 4) Gamers will benefit from features such as being able to attach more than one monitor at once to their PC.
- 5) If you are a keen Internet user, extra features that allow you to schedule downloads during the night could save time and reduce your telephone bill.

Five reasons not to buy it:

- 1) The upgrade cost of £72.77 (excluding VAT) is steep for what amounts to a set of drivers and some utilities.
- 2) Apart from some improvement in software load times, you are unlikely to be able to work any faster, or more efficiently, with Windows 98 than you can with Windows 95.
- 3) If you are not interested in getting online, you will be pressing a lot of "Cancel" buttons - Internet tools are closely integrated into the front end.
- 4) Windows 98's help system seems to have taken a step backwards - finding "how to" information about tasks such as sending a fax is more time consuming using the redesigned help windows.
- 5) You will need more processor power, memory and hard disk space. Windows 98 requires 285Mb of disk space - more than a little greedy for a basic operating system. However, you can get away with as little as 128Mb, providing you choose your installation options wisely.

MAGGIE WILLIAMS
The writer is PC Magazine's usability editor

Netscape unveils its new browser

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

LAST WEEK Netscape Communications announced the latest version of its Internet software, Communicator 4.5. The new version will have enhanced searching facilities built in, content filters and advanced e-mail capabilities.

By integrating the new software with databases on its Netcenter Web site, Netscape says customers surfing to a page will be able to choose a dropdown menu of automatically generated links to similar sites. The existing facility to type keywords direct into the browser's URL field will be boosted by access to Netcenter channels and links to a database of trademarked and product names, designed to narrow the results of a search.

RSACI and SafeSurf Web site ratings, already in use by Microsoft Internet Explorer, are the basis for content-filtering tools for parents, librarians, and network administrators. They can be used to block access to sites containing violence and nudity, for example, based on ratings applied to Web pages by content providers.

Accessing e-mail from any computer will be made easier by allowing users to create transmittable profiles of their Inter-

net software configuration. Increased options for filtering e-mail and working off-line are also promised. A beta release is due next month, with the finished product scheduled for autumn release.

ALMOST HALF of all newly installed business applications - 228 million out of 574 million - are pirate or bootleg copies, according to a study carried out by the Business Software Alliance and the Software Publishers Association. The cost to the US software industry is estimated to be \$11.4bn.

In terms of dollar losses, the US market was the worst, at \$2.7bn, followed by China at \$1.4bn, then Japan, South Korea, Germany, France, Brazil, Italy, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Total losses for those countries were \$7.8bn - 68 per cent of world-wide losses. In percentage terms, Asia's highest piracy rates were in Vietnam, with 98 per cent of their applications being illegal; China, 96

per cent; and Indonesia 93 per cent. Eastern Europe had similarly high figures.

Ken Wasch, president of the SPA, said that the problem is bigger than the figures show and governments should intervene. "Software piracy continues unabated," he said. "Even more sobering is the realisation that piracy of educational and entertainment software costs untold billions more. We call on governments around the world to ratify the WIPO Copyright Treaty, which would provide much-needed remedies against software piracy tools, and to rededicate themselves to fighting piracy by and through enforcement and education."

MICROSOFT IS still under the scrutiny of the European Commission over modified versions of agreements it proposed in February with 30 EU-based Internet service providers (ISPs) to promote them in exchange for their adoption of Internet Explorer (IE) instead of competing

software. A spokesperson for Microsoft said the company asked for an exemption to EU rules that ban agreements between companies that restrict competition.

Microsoft said it has changed the original contract it proposed in February. Under the new agreement, Microsoft will promote ISPs to end users who have a copy of Windows 95 with IE technologies on their PCs. In return, ISPs would pay Microsoft an unspecified fee for each user who subscribed to its services. The ISPs will also have the right to customise or adapt IE software and distribute it to users.

BT HAS awarded a contract to King Products, a Canadian company, to supply 1,000 Internet-ready, multimedia pay phones for use in Britain. Phones will begin to appear in October. The move follows a pilot project by BT in which 200 Touch Point terminals were installed in and around London. The companies said the phones were used by about 400,000 people per month.

The flat-panel, touch-screen phones, which have MMX processors, will be connected to

the BT network by an ISDN connection. They will have a handset, a printer and smart card capability to allow access to multimedia services such as street maps, news, weather, hotel bookings, theatre reservations and e-mail.

A DISTRICT court in San Jose, California, last week issued an injunction against three of the eight spammers sued by Hotmail, the free e-mail service. The judge found that the three had broken federal and state laws and ordered them to pay damages to the Microsoft subsidiary, LCGM Incorporated was ordered to pay \$275,000 in damages; Palmer and Associates and the Financial Research Group had to pay \$55,000 and \$7,500 respectively. Two others settled out of court and another three have legal cases pending. Although there are no laws specifically about spamming and junk e-mail, Hotmail was able to prosecute because trademarks had been infringed and fraud laws broken. The Federal Trade Commission is currently considering ways to clamp down on spammers using legislation about deceptive practices.

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET

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Woman on the cutting edge of the Web

The artist Auriea Harvey is proving that the Internet can be a place of beauty. By Jason Cranford Teague

AURIEA HARVEY. Riea to her friends, is an artist and designer pushing the boundaries of her chosen medium. Not just as a tool to sell people more stuff, distribute dull corporate reports or rant about the Millennium Dome, but as a form of artistic expression.

Her Web site, entropy8 (<http://www.entropy8.com>), has won numerous awards and appeared in several books on site design (including my own), and with good reason: it is possibly the most beautiful site out there and it just gets better all the time. I talked to Auriea recently about Web art and her slant on the medium as the message.

Jason Cranford Teague: What was it that first attracted you to the Web as a viable medium for your own artistic expression?

Auriea Harvey: The Web was something that I just sort of fell into. An extension of very early experimentation with computer images while I was in college. The Web took it to greater heights, though, because now I can have interaction with the

people viewing my work. It seemed like a natural fit to me.

JCT: What skills did you have to develop as a Web designer and artist that were unique to this medium over more traditional media?

AH: There are a great many things about the Web that I am just beginning to understand. The main thing I have had to learn is that I cannot work alone all the time. It is definitely not an isolationist medium and I feel that it is extremely important to take advantage of the networked environment and to use that as a strength. I had to learn to think in non-static, non-linear terms.

I think that, at first, my goal was just to play with technology. Now simply to play is not enough. I have seen how the Web can be used to create really meaningful environments and experiences for people. Not necessarily through art work like mine but through communities built of people with common interests, from various backgrounds, communicating with each other.

This is, I feel, the main function of the Web and what is ultimately the

most beautiful thing about it.

JCT: What limitations did you have to overcome using the Web as an artistic medium?

AH: It's like anything else where there are rules: you either obey or ignore; push against or work with them. So I never consider it as something to overcome. The big problem comes with there being so many new things to learn all the time. Sorting through what one likes or does not like becomes quite a problem. Finding things you can use or deciding to just perfect what you know is always an issue.

JCT: Your site is visually rich and textured. How important is the visual side of your message compared with text - do you make a distinction?

AH: I come from a purely visual arts background and I have always preferred images to text. With text everyone feels they "know" what you are saying and are willing to take it as truth - and take you literally. With images it is left more to interpretation. The viewer must use their



Auriea Harvey with a sample of her artwork at entropy8, one of the most beautiful sites on the Web



Diane Fenster

imagination to get some understanding, and they can really impress their own experiences and desires into your work.

In my first years on the Web I struggled with this. The textual element of the Web was immensely important, but I didn't know how I wanted to deal with it. I started out just saying the first thing that came off the top of my head and found that people were reading far too much into it. So then I worked to eradicate the text from my site, but that clearly was not the answer, either.

JCT: So how did you end up dealing with text?

AH: I believe there are ways to make textual interaction work in much the same way as imagery. Not just to be decorative but meaningful without being literal. The bottom line is, I enjoy making images and I also tend to write things down. It is up to me to figure out how these can all fit together. Since I have been doing this for a while, it seems that I would be an expert at this, but it is simply not true on a certain level.

JCT: How does your professional design work differ from your art?

AH: Professionally, I can pull off anything for a client, but artistically it's about the whole journey and the process of figuring out how to create the experience that I want the viewer to take part in.

It took years for me to learn to paint. I imagine the Web will take equally as long to become a real means of expression for me.

All I can say is that I really like it. I love all the things that being in-

involved with the Web has led me to. But I feel that it is no different from making a painting, sculpture, or video art work. It needs conceptual thought and time, not just the technical knowledge - and that is the journey.

JCT: One last question and I'm sure you must hear this one quite a lot: your Web site takes forever and a day to download! How do you respond to that?

AH: I know.

How to improve your image

SOFTWARE REVIEW

HANNAH GAL

SINCE ITS release in 1989, Adobe Photoshop has been the dominating tool for photographers, designers and practically anyone using colour on the computer.

Widely accepted as the industry standard, this program is the ideal tool for manipulating scanned images. Its standing also means it is well catered for by other manufacturers, with a multitude of plug-ins and applications to complement it.

Photoshop 3.0 revolutionised creative work with the introduction of layers, while version 4.0 brought significant improvements to efficiency and workflow. The latest upgrade brings new tools and sees Photoshop venturing into surprising territories.

Probably the most important feature is the History Palette, home to the eagerly awaited Multiple Undo. In true intelligent Adobe spirit, the facility does not just let you undo the previous stage. Instead, it keeps a record of all steps taken to create the image and displays them in the History Palette list. From sharpen-

ing, rotating and making a selection, to applying image size or filter, all changes to the image are shown and are accessible at any time.

To undo any change, the user simply deletes it off the History Palette. This facility is subject to the memory limits of the system and it is up to the user to set the number of steps for the program to record before it starts deleting them. If memory gets tight it can be freed up by purging the list. Another option is to preserve the existing list by taking a snapshot of the image so far and continue editing it.

The expanded toolbox hosts the new Measure tool, which lets you accurately assess distance between two points, analyse and compare angles. It also includes the Colour Samples tool, which simultaneously

displays precise analysis of the colour values in the info palette so users can monitor highlights, mid-tone and shadow area at all times.

New selection tools simplify the creation of complex selections and clipping paths. Most useful are Magnetic Lasso, Freeform Pen and Magnetic Pen. Dragged around an area, the first automatically locates contrasting image area and "hugs" the edges, creating a defining line. The adjustable latitude means most objects can be selected with ease.

The Adobe Illustrator-inspired Freeform Pen tool lets you draw a path to outline an image, and the Magnetic Pen produces a Bezier path around the edge of an area to create a clipping path. But it is the 3-D Transform plug-in which marks a completely new direction for Pho-

toshop, being the first attempt to provide 3-D effects. The 3-D feature lets you select an object in your 2-D image and move it in three dimensions. Ideal for repositioning objects and slightly tweaking the perspective beyond the capabilities of the Free Transform (Perspective) tool.

The new upgrade emphasises creativity and adaptability. As put to practice in the Jo Brand image at right, effects like inner shadows, outer glows, bevels, drop shadow and emboss can now be applied to layers in one step.

These effects remain "live" when applied, freeing you from committing to any one effect, and only update (automatically) when the layer is edited. This feature is independent from the greater flexibility offered by the History Palette. The latter enables access to different stages in the "history" of the image, creating exciting creative opportunities.

In this illustration, I was able to go back to the step where the background squares were created, apply

an effect and simply skip back to the more advanced stage. Another example is the return to the stage where saturation was applied to the road, eight steps back. I was able to increase saturation slightly without affecting later stages of work in any way. The handier interface design meant the right gradient style for the road was conveniently selected from the main tool box.

Another improvement is the Duotone, Colour Setting and Indexed Colour Effects dialogue boxes, which now have live previews, and there are three smoother gradient styles: angular, diamond and reflected.

You can certainly carry on using Photoshop 4, but you would be highly advised to upgrade. The huge demand on memory when handling large files is still unresolved, but Multiple Undo has finally arrived.

Adobe Photoshop 5.0, £600 plus VAT, upgrade £165 plus VAT. Further information: 0131-606 4001 or <http://www.adobe.com>



Jo Brand, easily manipulated with Photoshop 5 Hannah Gal

Turn your junk into art

WEB SITES

BILL PANNIFER

The Digital Landfill
<http://www.potatoland.org/landfill/>

There's a lot of rubbish out there in cyberspace, and even more cluttering up hard drives worldwide. But a newly launched facility allows online dumping of the digital detritus. So instead of pressing the "delete" key, send your unwanted electrons to what amounts to a compost heap for the World Wide Web. This omnivorous, environmentally conscious site wears its recycling logo with pride and accepts everything - XXX-rated Jpegs, old e-mails, botched HTML. Anything goes, except perhaps old mattresses or lawn trimmings: just press the "Add to Landfill" button and watch it all accumulate on screen. Layered sections of the heap may be chosen from a side panel and examined; with the most recent browsers, it's superimposed in a jumble of text and images intended to provide fertile ground for new design ideas. In fact, it's another digital art-prank from Mark Napier, previously featured mutating a hapless Barbie in ways under-appreciated by her manufacturers.

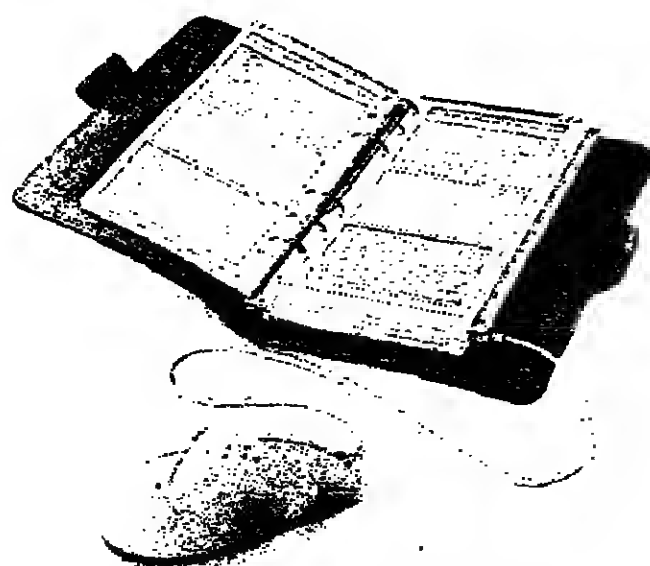
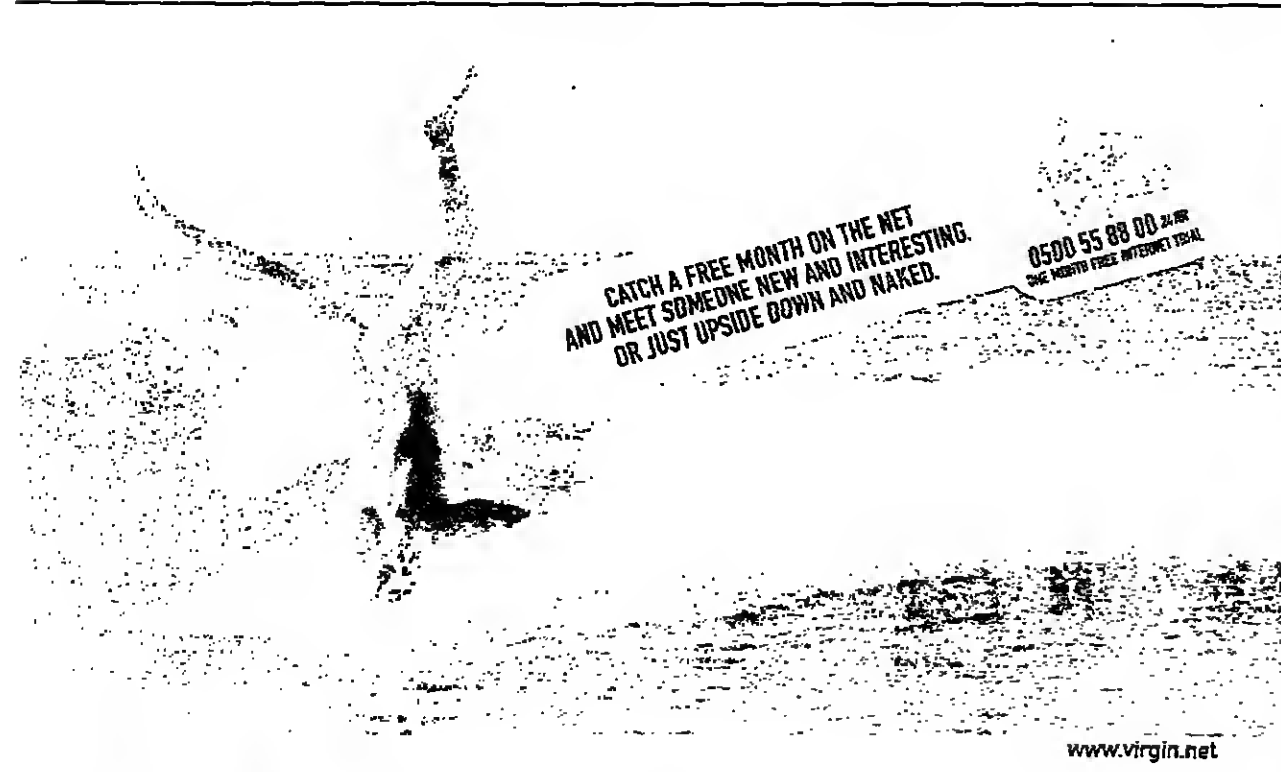
Walk on Water
<http://www.inetworld.net/tsukar/wow.html>
More creative uses for debris here, but this seems to be about

science rather than art, as engineering students compete to design suitable footwear for aquatic strolling. There's a lot of polystyrene and duct tape about, as well as rafts made of plastic Coke bottles. Some of the "self-propelled buoyancy shoes" are wittily styled, for instance as a giant pair of Nikes. The University of San Diego has posted strict rules for the contest, which culminates in a walking race across a swimming-pool: no external propulsion devices, no props to maintain balance, no modified surfboards. Overall, the entries could not be described as hi-tech. "Cut a sawtooth pattern in a large piece of styrofoam and glue to bottom of shoe." Or, in the immortal words of Tim Rice: "Prove to me that you're no fool/Walk across that swimming-pool."

KhepOnTheWeb
<http://khepontheweb.ep8.ch/>
An ingenious contraption and an ingenious site, this petite Swiss robot may be manipulated by remote control from home computers worldwide. Forget *Lost in Space*, though - Khep is only 55mm across and is limited to scuttling around a simple maze, while relaying its own progress from a tiny on-board camera. An on-screen panel enables cursor control of the Lausanne-based machine;

to avoid confusing the poor chap, only one visitor can be in command at a time, so the thrill is rationed and subject to automatic time-out. Moves may, however, be rehearsed in advance by means of VRML simulation. Khep, and its larger stablemate Koala, are available for sale from the site. Mischief-makers frustrated by the intermittent connection, however, might want to amuse themselves by sending it trundling off the edge of the table.

Kite Aerial Photography
<http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/arch/faculty/cris/kap/>
Heath Robinson takes to the air at this site dedicated to high-altitude swooping and snooping. These impressively laid out pages are the work of a US professor who, in his spare time, straps cameras to kites and produces stunning overhead images. Lots of home-made ingenuity on display here, including a low-cost shutter delay mechanism in which a piece of string slowly cuts through a melting ice cube. The pictures, however, are expertly composed and sometimes funny: a bird's-eye view of the author shows him reclining nonchalantly in a muddy, dried-up lake bed, kite string in hand. Aerial shots, he says "challenge our spatial sensibilities, our grasp of relationships", and, in what must be the oddest trading proposal on the Web, he offers to swap copies of his snaps for old, unwanted slide rules - another of his obsessions.



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New software packages are making it easier to ensure your children do not access undesirable sites on the Internet. By Joseph Blindloss

A censor in cyberspace

It is late on a school night, and you hear the tapping of computer keys from your child's bedroom. Most likely, your Web-savvy youngster is exploring one of the many child-friendly sites on the Internet - rearranging the features of *Oh! The Aardark* on the children's BBC home page, perhaps - but you still feel a moment's anxiety as you enter the room. What if your child has stumbled on to a site containing hard-core pornography, or worse, is giving out his or her personal details to an anonymous stranger in an Internet relay chat room?

Increasing numbers of British parents are facing this troubling scenario every time their children go on-line. An estimated 4 million UK households will be connected to the Internet by the year 2000, with Web-based education set to play an integral role in our children's education under the Government's National Grid for Learning Initiative. Yet there is a growing credibility gap between the government's "learning Net" and the World Wide Web of vice that is getting an ever higher profile in the tabloid press.

For many parents, the result is worry and confusion. But a child-safe Internet need not be a distant dream. A diverse range of software solutions is available to monitor children in cyberspace, from complex keyword filtering systems that block sites, e-mails and newsgroups containing words such as "sex", to programs and Net connections based on regularly updated lists of banned or approved Internet resources.

The simplest and most desirable solution, from a parent's point of view, is to monitor a child's on-line time personally. Child care organisations such as the charity Childnet International recommend that younger children be supervised by an adult whenever they use the Internet.

Parents need to be involved with their children to build their confidence with the Internet and establish house rules," insists Nigel Williams, Childnet's director. "Getting involved with your child is the first step - they will probably learn faster than you. But the Internet is a tool to help you pursue shared interests, and you will learn more by working together."

Older children, however, can benefit from exploring cyberspace for

themselves, and it is here that filtering software comes into its own. Protecting children on-line is already big business in America - the US market for filtering software was worth more than \$14m in 1997 - and market leaders such as Net Nanny and Cyber Patrol are now looking to Britain as their next big market.

The programs allow parents to prime their PC to demand a password, shut down, or even e-mail them at work if a child tries to enter a website or newsgroup that is on a list of prohibited sites. Regularly updated lists of "good" and "bad" sites are available free or for a subscription fee from the company websites. The UK is already the second largest market for on-line sales of the Learning Company's Cyber Patrol, and Net Nanny will soon be distributed by the Dixons chain through its Dixons, Currys and PC World stores.

Unfortunately, the business of protecting children on-line is further complicated by the issue of freedom of speech in cyberspace. There is a growing concern among anti-censorship organisations that proprietary filtering systems are taking editorial decisions over children's on-line viewing out of parents' hands.

"Users should be aware that they are handing over to software companies control of what they should or shouldn't see," says Malcolm Hutter, of the Campaign Against

Censorship of the Internet in Britain. "There is a place for this kind of software, particularly when children are unsupervised on the Net, but children should not always be forced to see the Internet through the eyes of cyber-nanny."

The CyberNOT list used by Cyber Patrol includes 4.5 million banned websites, assessed by a committee including teachers and judges, and users pay a subscription fee for regular updates. But the list is encrypted, and parents downloading the list, and a complimentary CyberYES list of approved sites, may be unaware that along with obvious categories such as nudity and sexual content, their children may be prevented from accessing sites dealing with areas such as feminist issues and AIDS education.

Cyber Patrol users can deactivate contentious blocking criteria, such as "alcohol or tobacco" or "sex education", according to their own cultural preferences, but Paul Harrington, the business development manager for Internet Solutions International/The Learning Company in the UK, is quick to point out that Cyber Patrol is seeking to correct this American moral bias.

"People are saying that since all the software companies are in the US, there is a cultural bias, but we're making inroads into that. We now have research teams in America,

Germany, Japan and the UK, putting 600 hours a week into researching the CyberNOT list."

Net Nanny has made this issue the core of its policy. As well as using keyword filtering, which allows parents to add or remove keywords that may lead their children into danger, its free lists and updates are fully editable by users. "It's not my right to dictate my value sets into your home," says Gordon Ross, Net Nanny's CEO, who has advised the Clinton administration on Net-protection issues. "We want to put control into the hands of the consumer."

Like Cyber Patrol, the software is also able to prevent children giving out sensitive information such as addresses and telephone numbers.

Concerned parents can also entrust their children to British educators. Research Machines, the leading supplier of Internet access to British schools, operates a pre-filtered Internet-connection service called Internet for Learning, which excludes newsgroups and websites considered unsuitable in a school context. Included in the service is subscription to Eduweb, a network of educational resources with a web-publishing service for children.

But many Net users may already be able to ensure their children surf safely. Internet services such as CompuServe and AOL provide gated communities of approved Internet resources, as well as general Net access, with controls that allow parents to restrict children to child-friendly areas of the service.

Further, 75,000 websites have now been voluntarily rated by the Recreational Software Advisory Council on the Internet (RSAC), and carry an electronic label describing their content. Parents can screen these sites for adult content using web browsers such as Netscape and Internet Explorer, although unrated sites will be out of bounds.

It is widely agreed, however, that software solutions cannot replace hands-on supervision. "The computer should be in the family room," says Nigel Williams, of Childnet. "Kids have a natural curiosity, but also need to learn a new set of rules to evaluate information on the Net so they know whether it is accurate or reliable, and how to apply 'stranger-danger' skills in chat rooms. Parents also need to participate."

WHERE CAN YOU FIND A RELIABLE CYBERSITTER?

Cyber Patrol can be purchased online (<http://www.cyberpatrol.com>) for £24.95, including three months' subscription to the CyberNOT list. Further six-month subscriptions are available for £16. Weekly updates to the CyberNOT list and daily HotNOTs can be downloaded from the Cyber Patrol website.

Net Nanny is currently available by mail order from NetPartners (0171-493 5133), priced £29 plus VAT, postage and packing. Dixons will soon offer a version at £24.95. List updates are free at <http://www.netnanny.com>.

The Internet for Learning service is available by subscription from Research Machines (01235 826668) and costs £14.70 per month, including VAT. Home-link, an off-peak service for evenings, weekends and holidays, is also available at £7.50 per month inclusive.

More information on the Eduweb service is available from <http://www.eduweb.co.uk>.

NCH Action for Children (<http://www.nchac.org.uk>) also provides an advisory document for parents on its site.

Those small wonders

PC Magazine's lab puts personal digital organisers to the test

PC
MAGAZINE

ELECTRONIC organisers, or what are now more commonly referred to as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), are to the Nineties what the Filofax was to the Eighties. Unfortunately, the Filofax, which became a roaring success because you could collect everything from telephone numbers to recipes in it, also failed because it became too heavy to lug around.

Hand-held digital devices were the obvious alternative. Psion revolutionised the PDA market in the UK, and for much of the globe, when it launched Psion Series 3a in 1995. The emphasis on being able to transfer data easily between the device and a desktop PC meant that you could use it as a portable extension of your PC rather than just a device for collecting names and addresses.

Psion continued its PDA line-up with the Psion Series 5 in 1997 but its rivals have come on strong. The first real attack on Psion's market dominance came in the form of the PalmPilot from US Robotics (now part of 3Com), and a raft of devices from vendors that run Microsoft Windows CE, a cut-down version of Windows 95.

Now there is a wide choice of devices, but there are marked differences between them in terms of price, specification, battery life and weight, and so on. To cut through the hype and confusion, and to discover which of these little devices is the easiest to use, PC Magazine conducted a comparative review in its July edition. PDAs had to run a UK-oriented operating system, be capable of direct data entry and be able to send data to and from a desktop PC.

Eleven devices fitted these criteria. All models varied in

price, from under £200 for the 3Com PalmPilot Professional to £700 (ex VAT) for the Hewlett Packard 620LX Windows CE device - the only one with a colour screen.

Because the key factor with a PDA is ease of use, PC Magazine (www.pcmag.com) put all these devices through rigorous usability tests. The findings were interesting. The Windows CE devices, because of their similarity with a desktop system, were the easiest to get to grips with; only the Psion Series 5 came close. Although the lack of a keyboard and the use of a stylus to control the PalmPilot put off a lot of testers, it did get the highest ergonomics rating. This was because the testers felt that it is a truly portable device, provided that you are prepared to spend time learning the Graffiti (shorthand-like handwriting) required to input data.

In the end, the "best" PDA comes down to what you want. If it's portability and the ability to synchronise data with your desktop PC easily and quickly, then the PalmPilot Professional is the best out there, and was awarded a PC Magazine Editor's Choice award. However, there are those who still feel more comfortable with a keyboard and more familiar desktop applications and so we awarded a second Editor's Choice to the Psion Series 5.



The PalmPilot Professional

TOM SUTCLIFFE ON 'BERKELEY SQUARE'

"Such nasty aristocratic behaviour won't surprise regular viewers, who have learnt by now that the upper orders are emotionally stunted, duplicitous, selfish, abusive and dull"

—TELEVISION REVIEW, BACK PAGE—

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Rank Video Services Europe

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Thursday 25th June 1998

4pm-9pm

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Ref: RVS041

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Ref: RVS042

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Ref: RVS043

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Ref: RVS044

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Ref: RVS045

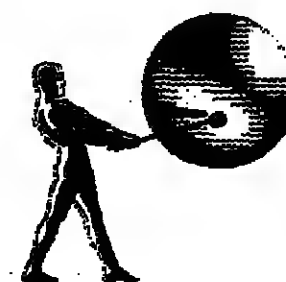
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(Sun/3pm) even & weekends
2nd Floor, 88 The Malvern, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1XY
e-mail: sewell@digitalpeople.com

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You will work on a rota basis providing cover between the hours of 7.00am and 7.00pm each working day. Duties will include providing first line support via the telephone or SMS and identifying errors in the central Helpdesk management database. The successful candidate will be educated to 'A' level standard, have previous Helpdesk experience, knowledge of Windows NT and SMS and have good keyboard skills. (Ref: 98/631/TJR)

SYSTEMS ANALYST

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This role involves providing 3rd line support on all systems within a rapidly expanding Investment Bank. You will be responsible for maintenance of all servers, enhancements to systems on the servers, ensuring the infrastructure is maintained and specifying upgrades or enhancements where necessary. Good knowledge of Windows NT and networking in general is essential. (Ref: 98/633/TJR)

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£Neg

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£Neg

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For more information, call our advising consultants Kate Mosca or Alastair Carrington on 0171 970 9663. Alternatively, email, fax, or write, quoting the appropriate reference to PSD Information Systems, 28 Essex Street, London WC2R 3AX. Fax: 0171-353 5839. Email: email10@psdgroup.com

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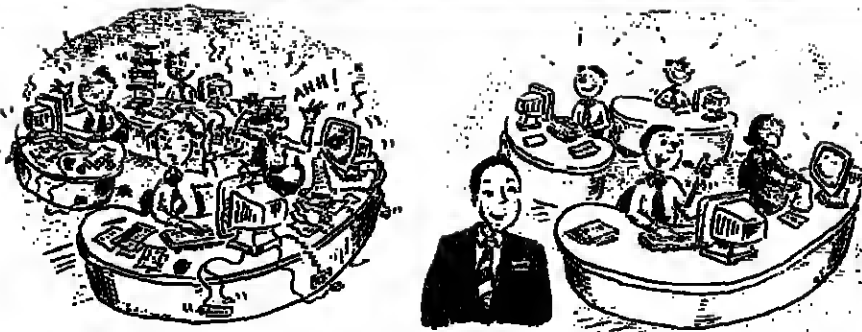
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NEW FILMS

CITY OF ANGELS (12)
Director: Brad Silberling
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Meg Ryan, Dennis Franz
Now that plans for Tim Burton's stab at a Super-
man film have been indefinitely postponed, it
looks like Nicolas Cage will be denied the chance
to wear his underpants outside his trousers.
For the time being, his role in *City of Angels* will
provide some consolation.

Although the picture claims Wim Wenders' *Wings of Desire* as its progenitor, the real
inspiration for the film's pivotal dramatic dilemma
lies in a far less prestigious source. When Seth,
the angel played by Cage, puzzles over whether
or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss
with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan), he's following
in the footsteps of the Man of Steel, who turned
in all that saving-the-world poppycock for Lois
Lane in *Superman II*.

It always struck me that *Wings of Desire*
would have been much more tolerable as a
Hollywood tearjerker than a sombre European
art movie. Accordingly, *City of Angels* is silly
in the way that only serious-minded movies
can be. The romance between Cage and Ryan
is startlingly limp, and it's left to the director,
Brad Silberling, to conjure some magic from the
chaos of Los Angeles.

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)
Director: Stephen Kay
Starring: Thomas Jane, Keanu Reeves
A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the
Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas

Jane, who believes that Cassady was a charmer,
but portrays him as an egotistical sixth-former.
There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical
lighting, but the film just amounts to the same
old Beat Generation clichés: blue smoke, white
vests and black coffee, maaaaa.

SAVIOR (18)
Director: Peter Antonijevic
Starring: Dennis Quaid, Nastassja Kinski
There are also plenty of unexpected giggles
in *Savior*, though given that the film is set in
war-torn Bosnia, we should assume that they are
mostly unintentional. In a bizarre pre-credits
sequence, Dennis Quaid loses his wife (Nastassja
Kinski) and son in a Paris bomb blast, then
avenges their death by striding into a mosque
and gunning down a row of Muslims at prayer. I
suspect that the editor dozed off at his Steinbeck,
because the next thing you know, Quaid is a
hired gun for the Serbs, shaking his head at
various atrocities and taking a woman and her
newborn daughter under his wing. When he
sighs, "This war sucks, man," you'd better
cherish the line - it's the film's only shot at
characterisation or political commentary.

POINT BLANK (15)
Director: John Boorman
Starring: Lee Marvin, Angie Dickinson, Keenan
Wynn, James B Sicking
Re-release of John Boorman's finest film, a chilly
and chilling existential thriller with Lee Marvin
as the gangster Walker, his soul emptied but his
mind full of revenge.

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

AFTERGLOW (15)
Two couples - fiftysomethings Nick Nolte and
Julie Christie, and twentysomethings Lara Flynn
Boyle and Jonny Lee Miller - swap partners and
wry aphorisms in the latest romantic comedy
from writer-director Alan Rudolph.

THE APOSTLE (12)
Director: Robert Duvall plunges into the role of a
preacher obsessed with God in a manner that is
both terrifying and entrancing.

THE BIG SWAP (18)
Drah, unconvincing and preachy drama played
out against Sunday supplement locations

THE BUTCHER BOY (15)
Neil Jordan's film of Patrick McCabe's blackly
comic novel about a precocious 12-year-old in
1960s Ireland has a macabre thrill that is
seductive. Jordan's depiction of the world, seen
through the eyes of Francis (Eamonn Owens), is
so rich and unsparring that it pulls you in in the
manner of a Grimm fairytale.

DAD SAVAGE (18)
Patrick Stewart sheds his *Star Trek* image to play
a tulip-growing, Country & Western-obsessed
East Anglian crime boss in this stab at re-
inventing the British thriller.

DARK CITY (15)
Alex Proyas returns with with another over-
the-top urban nightmare. Amnesiac suspected
serial-killer Rufus Sewell is pursued by dour
inspector William Hurt, syringe-wielding
psychiatrist Kiefer Sutherland and Richard
O'Brien as one of a sinister breed of aliens
known as "The Strangers".

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)
Woody Allen's most honest and intelligent film
in more than a decade.

FISTS IN THE POCKET (NC)
A new print of Marco Bellocchio's 1965 classic.

THE GENERAL (15)
John Boorman's best film in two decades charts
the career of Dublin gangster Martin Cahill, who
ran rings round the Gardaí with a series of heists
before the IRA put him out of business in 1994.

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)
A jaunty if unoriginal take on the rites-of-
passage genre, set in Leicester at the start of the
1970s. The lively script is complemented by the
performance of young actress Joanna Ward who
sparkles as the film's athletic teenager.

THE GRASS HARP (PG)
An adaptation of Truman Capote's novel about lives
and loves in a southern American town in the
1940s. A fine cast is assembled to little effect.

THE HANGING GARDEN (15)
Gay hero, Sweet William, returns home for the
wedding of his sister (Kerry Fox), who is
marrying the boy that William once had a crush on
in this disarming drama.

LIVE FLESH (18)
A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of
Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date,
though the action has been shifted to Madrid and
cramped with sexual symbolism.

LOLITA (18)
Adrian Lyne's remake of Kubrick's stylish Nabokov
adaptation lacks spirit and adventure.

LOVE ETC (15)
The meandering French drama stars Charlotte
Gainsbourg as a woman torn between her husband
and his best friend.

THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS (U)
A welcome re-release for Orson Wells' 1942 near-
masterpiece about a wealthy family whose
conflicting emotions tear them apart.

MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL
(15)
This intermittently engaging romantic comedy sees
Martha, an American visiting London on a whim,
going on separate dates with three men who turn
out to be best friends.

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)
Hanif Kureishi establishes an opposition between
an agreeable, progressive Pakistani taxi driver
and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a
fundamentalist Muslim.

NOWHERE (18)
One-man film factory Gregg Araki returns to
the nihilistic landscape of *The Doom Generation*
with another hallucinatory journey through an
LA underground inhabited by young
ambisexual drifters, sado-masochists, druggies,
airheads - and, this time around, a few aliens
for good measure.

THE REAL BLONDE (15)
Tom DiCillo's prickly satire on the fashion
industry doesn't have enough original or incidental
ideas to go around, but it is charmingly played
by a game cast, and littered with surprises and
fizzy one-liners.

RED CORNER (15)
Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must
have blinded him to the failings of this chunky
piece of anti-Chinese propaganda.

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)
Executive-produced by Hong Kong action
director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch
the American career of his favourite star, Chow
Yun-Fat. Chow plays a hitman with a conscience
who finds himself pursued by both the police and
by the mob's "replacement killers".

THE SCARLET TUNIC (12)
Worthy drama boasting a sparkling performance
from Simon Callow.

SLIDING DOORS (15)
A romantic comedy set in the space-time contin-
uum, sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off
into two separate realities at the same time, with
two different suitors (John Hannah and John
Lynch). Just what the world needed: a humorous
reinterpretation of Kieslowski's *Blaiz Chance*.

SOUL FOOD (15)
A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the
attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied
eccentricity that implies.

STAR KID (PG)
Amiable children's adventure about a young boy
Joseph Mazello from *Jurassic Park* who's
called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in
budget it makes up for in imagination.

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)
There isn't anything terribly original about
Stiff Upper Lips which takes pot-shots at
Merchant/Ivory productions, but its humour is
informed by a mixture of savagery and affection
which recalls Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein*.
The jokes come thick and fast, and there are
sprightly turns from Prunella Scales and the
late Brian Glover.

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)
The winner of last year's Palme d'Or about an
Iranian man who drives around the outskirts of
Tehran looking for someone to help him commit
suicide - but thanks to naturalistic performances,
it's a hypnotic and moving experience.

A THOUSAND ACRES (15)
Jessica Lange and Michelle Pfeiffer play sisters who
rebel against their father, but their talents are
wasted in this drama based on *King Lear*.

TITANIC (12)
Rose (Kate Winslet) is about to marry into obscene
wealth, but she's her fiancé at the last minute
for Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio), a ragamuffin
from the wrong side of the tracks.

WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)
Bringing up the rear of the latest Henry James
boom comes the story of the moosey New York
heir (Jennifer Jason Leigh) whose dour father
(Albert Finney) forbids her marriage to a dashing,
but penniless suitor (Ben Chaplin).

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy
about a romantic wedding singer (*Saturday Night
Live*'s Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a
waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that
she's engaged to someone else.

WEST END NUMBERS

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THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey
FAHRENHEIT 451, made in 1966, isn't
François Truffaut's finest film, but it's
one of my favourites. What's more, it
has really endured. You might argue
that the futuristic elements lifted from
Ray Bradbury's novel about the eradica-
tion of literature have preserved the
movie's science-fiction can be a great
embalmer. But I'd give the credit to
Truffaut's humanist principles. And to
Nicolas Roeg's slick, candy-coloured
photography, which still sizzles.
Manchester Cornerhouse
(0161-200 1500), today 6.25pm,
Tue 1.55pm, 6.25pm.

In *Dream with the Fishes* (above),
a man preparing for suicide hooks up with a terminally ill junkie for a few
weeks of mindless pursuits, from naked bowling to naked bank robbery. In
less capable hands this could have been an ingratiatingly wacky tearjerker.
But writer-director Finn Taylor's debut retains a gritty edge. David
Arquette and Brad Hunt play the last-dash bedonists.
On general release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

A LETTER OF RESIGNATION, Hugh Whitmore's account of Harold
Macmillan and the Profumo scandal, has a surface relish for chatter. At
times, Edward Fox's Super Mac gets so
settled in his armchair, it looks like he's
taking the play to the grave with him.
But he shows this gravitas to be a mask,
concealing years of pain and wounded
pride, and in this moving comedy, we see
Macmillan haunted by the betrayal, not
of the War Minister, but of his wife,
unfaithful for 30 years.
Savoy Theatre, London WC2
(0171-836 8888) 7.45pm.
Sadly shedding one of the plays, *A Kind*
of *Alaska*, the Pinter mini-fest, which has
been staged to such acclaim at the
Donmar, goes on the road. The plays
have stood the test of time with the same
staunchness that Pinter himself (above) displays as Harry, the jealous
homosexual in *The Collection* (1961). This has been given its first
pairing with *The Lover* (1962) under the direction of Joe Harmston.
Richmond Theatre, Richmond, Surrey (0181-940 0088) 7.45pm.



Talks Judith Palmer

WHEN Pete Townshend (right) hurled
himself around the stage with *The Who*,
was it merely the delinquent fury of dis-
affected youth, or was the young popstar
making a greater artistic statement?
Tonight, Townshend intends to reveal that
it was his stint at art school which actual-
ly proved his biggest inspiration, espe-
cially the work of his favourite teacher,
the charismatic Austrian artist Gustav
Klimt. Pupil and mentor get together
again to discuss each other's work at the
ICA - the very place Metzger got busted
by the police for the Destruction in Art
Symposium back in 1966.
ICA, The Mall, London SW1
(0171 930 3647) 7.30pm



Comedy James Rampton

IN THEIR new show *The Mighty Boosh*, Julian Barratt and Noel
Fielding (below) invite you join them "on a crunchy journey to a tight-blue
forest" where you will encounter such characters as Jaffro the Jam
Lizard and Electric Terry, the Crinkle-Cut Cowboy. If lovable buffoonery
is your bag, then check out their Edinburgh Festival warm-up.
Flen and Chickens, London N1
(0171-704 3001) 9.30pm.
Arrive at the interval of *New*
Edina - The Spectacle
because the first-half pastiches
is a bit of a let-down. After that,
the show picks up as Edna
gets to do what she does best:
humiliate the audience.
Haymarket Theatre
Royal, London SW1
(0171-930 8800) 7.30pm



CINEMA
WEST END

THE APOSTLE (12)
Barbican Screen 8pm, 8.40pm
Phoenix Cinema 12.40pm, 6pm
Empire Leicester Square 1.30pm,
5.15pm, 8.15pm Screen on the Hill
2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Ritz
Cinema 3.30pm, 8.30pm

AS GOOD AS IT GETS (15)
ABC Panton Street 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)
Odeon Camden Town 12.35pm,
3.30pm, 6pm, 9.05pm Warner Village
West End 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm,
9.30pm UCI Whiteleys 7.05pm ABC
Panton Street 1.15pm, 3.40pm,
6.05pm, 8.30pm Virgin Fulham Road
1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

THE BIG SWAP (18)
Plaza 12.35pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

CITY OF ANGELS (12)
Odeon Camden Town 12.50pm,
3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Virgin
Haymarket 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
Odeon Kensington 7pm, 9.40pm
Barbican Screen 3pm, 6.15pm,
8.40pm Odeon Marble Arch 12.15pm,
3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm ABC Totten-
ham Court Road 1.15pm, 3.55pm,
6.35pm, 9.20pm Notting Hill Cinema
1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Clapham Picture House 2pm, 4.30pm,
7pm, 9.30pm Warner Village West End
12.40pm, 1.40pm, 3.15pm, 4.10pm,
5.50pm, 6.40pm, 8.30pm, 9.20pm Vir-
gin Fulham Road 1.30pm, 5.30pm,
8.20pm ABC Baker Street 1.15pm,
3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

CITIZEN KANE (U)
ABC Panton St 4.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm

DARK CITY (15)
Virgin Trocadero 12.20pm, 2.30pm,
4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Warner Village
West End 1.20pm, 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

DAYS OF BEING WILD (15)
(subtitles)
ICA Cinema 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.20pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm

DEEP IMPACT (12)
Odeon Marble Arch 12.10pm, 3.15pm,
6.05pm, 8.55pm Empire Leicester
Square 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm,
8.30pm Virgin Fulham Road 12.30pm,
3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm UCI
Whiteleys 3.35pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm
Virgin Trocadero 12noon, 2.20pm,
5.40pm, 8.40pm

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)
Metro 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

THE FULL MONTY (15)
ABC Shaftsbury Avenue 1.10pm,
3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

THE GENERAL (15)
Odeon Camden Town 12.05pm,
2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm Virgin
Trocadero 2pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm
Warner Village West End 12.30pm,
5pm Clapham Picture House 3pm,
6.30pm, 9.15pm

GOOD WILL HUNTING (15)
ABC Panton St 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm

HAPPY TOGETHER (15)
ABC Swiss Centre 6.20pm

JACKIE BROWN (15)
Plaza 12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.40pm

KUNDUN (12)
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.45pm,
8.20pm

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)
ABC Piccadilly 1.35pm, 3.50pm,
6.10pm, 8.45pm

LIVE FLESH (18)
Richmond Picturehouse 8.45pm Curzon
Mayfair 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Screen
on Baker Street 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
Metro 2pm, 4.15pm, 8.30pm, 8.45pm
Remok 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm
Odeon Camden Town 12noon, 2.15pm,
4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Ritz
Cinema 8.30pm

CINEMA
LONDON LOCALS

LOLITA (18)
Odeon Village West End 11.40am,
2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Virgin
Haymarket 8.15pm

MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)
Odeon West End 4.05pm, 8.50pm
Virgin Cinema 1.15pm, 3.45pm,
8.45pm, 9.15pm

MA VIE EN ROSE (12)
Ritz Cinema 2.25pm

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)
ABC Swiss Centre 3.55pm, 8.40pm

POINT BLANK (18)
Ritz Cinema 2.30pm, 4.45pm,
7.05pm, 9.20pm Gate Notting Hill
1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm
Screen on the Green 3.50pm, 6.50pm,
9pm

RED CORNER (15)
Odeon Marble Arch 12.20pm, 3.10pm,
6pm, 9pm Virgin Trocadero 2.10pm,
5.20pm, 8.30pm Virgin Fulham Road
2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm UCI
Whiteleys 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.25pm Plaza
12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)
Virgin Trocadero 12noon, 2.10pm,
4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm UCI Whiteleys
4.30pm, 9.45pm

SAVIOR (18)
Odeon Haymarket 2pm, 4.15pm,
6.30pm, 8.45pm Virgin Fulham Road
2pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm

THE SCARLET TUNIC (12)
ABC Shaftsbury Avenue 1.35pm,
4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

SCREAM 2 (18)
Warner Village West End 3.20pm,
8.50pm

SHALL WE DANCE? (PG)
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.35pm,
6pm, 8.40pm

SLIDING DOORS (15)
UCI Whiteleys 3.45pm, 6.15pm,
8.45pm ABC Baker Street 1.20pm,
3.40pm, 6.40pm Virgin Fulham Road
2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm Virgin Tro-
cadero 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm Em-
pire Leicester Square 1pm, 3.20pm,
5.40pm, 8pm ABC Tottenham Court
Road 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.40pm,
9.25pm Phoenix Cinema 3.40pm,
8.55pm

SOUL FOOD (15)
Ritz Cinema 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm,
9.15pm UCI Whiteleys 3.50pm,
6.50pm, 9.30pm Rio Cinema 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm Warner Village West
End 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Virgin Trocadero 12.30pm, 3pm,
5.40pm, 8.50pm

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)
UCI Whiteleys 4.15pm, 7.15pm,
9.35pm Virgin Chelsea 2pm, 5.45pm,
8.30pm Plaza 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm,
8.10pm Warner Village West End
11.45am, 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm,
8.40pm

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)
Remok 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

A THOUSAND ACRES (15)
Richmond Picturehouse 3.45pm, 6.15pm
Corzo Mayfair 1.15pm, 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm Virgin Chelsea 1pm,
3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Clapham Picture
House 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm
ABC Swiss Centre 1.30pm, 5pm

TITANIC (12)
Odeon Marble Arch 8pm Warner
Village West End 12noon, 4pm, 8pm

WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)
Screen on Baker Street 3.15pm,
6.20pm, 8.45pm Virgin Haymarket
12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm Chelsea
Cinema 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm,
8.40pm

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
UCI Whiteleys 4pm, 6.45pm, 9pm
Odeon West End 1.30pm, 3.55pm,
6.25pm, 8.45pm ABC Baker Street
6.10pm ABC Tottenham Court Road
1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
Odeon Camden Town 1.15pm, 3.50pm,
6.15pm, 8.55pm Ritz Cinema 4.35pm,
6.50pm, 9.05pm Odeon Marble Arch
12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm
Odeon Kensington 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Virgin Chelsea 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

WILD THINGS

WILD THINGS (18)
Odeon West End 1.20pm, 6.20pm Odeon
Marble Arch 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.35pm

THE WINGS OF THE DOVE (15)
Odeon Haymarket 2pm, 7pm (+ Mrs
Brown)

ACTON
PARK ROYAL WARNER
VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) Park
Royal City of Angels 12.00pm, 4pm,
6.40pm, 8.20pm Deep Impact 1.10pm,
4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm Red Corner
1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, The Replace-
ment Killers 2.50pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm
Screen 2 9.30pm Sliding Doors
12.00pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm Soul
Food 1.50pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm, 10pm
Star Kid 5.10pm Sliff Upper Lips
7.50pm Titanic 1pm, 4.50pm, 8.40pm
The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.50pm,
6.20pm, 9pm Wislmaster 12.50pm,
3.10pm, 5pm, 10.10pm

BARKING
ODEON (0181-507 8444) Barking
Blues Brothers 2000 2.05pm, 4.30pm
City of Angels 1.10pm, 3.40pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm Deep Impact 1pm,
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Saviour 2.10pm,
4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm Soul Food
1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The
Wedding Singer 12.15pm, 2.25pm,
4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm Wislmaster
7pm

VIRGIN'S CORNER
ABC (0870-9070717) BR: Cricke-
wood City of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm,
8.20pm Deep Impact 3pm, 5.45pm,
8.30pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm,
8.40pm Soul Food 3.30pm, 6.20pm,
9pm Titanic 4pm, 8pm The Wedding
Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill
The Full Monty 2.20pm, 4.20pm,
6.35pm, 8.45pm The Grass Harp
1.40pm, 6.20pm Saviour 4pm, 8.40pm
Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR:
Streatham Hill/Brixton/Clapham
Common City of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm,
8.30pm Deep Impact 12.10pm, 3pm,
5.40pm, 8.20pm Mrs Brown 4pm,
8.50pm Soul Food 12.40pm, 5.20pm,
6pm, 8.40pm The Wedding Singer
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.40pm
The Wings of the Dove 2pm, 6.50pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (555 3366) BR: Stratford
East City of Angels 1.15pm, 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm The Full Monty
2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm Mrs
Brown 4.30pm, 9pm Soul Food 2pm,
4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9pm The Wings of
The Dove 2.15pm, 6.45pm

SUTTON
UCI (0800-888990) BR: Sutton/Leam-
ington City of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm,
8.30pm Deep Impact 3.15pm, 6pm,
8.45pm Sliding Doors 3.45pm Screen 2
6.30pm Sliding Doors 4.45pm, 7.15pm,
9.45pm Titanic 3pm, 7pm The Wed-
ding Singer 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Wild
Things 9.15pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519)
Turnpike Lane, The Apostle 4pm,
8.10pm Soul Food 3.30pm, 5.55pm,
8.25pm The Wedding Singer 4pm,
6.10pm, 8.50pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01895-813139) BR: Uxbridge
City of Angels 1.30pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm,
The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.35pm,
6.15pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) BR: Walthamstow
Central The Full Monty 1.30pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 8.45pm The Replacement
Killers 8.55pm Soul Food 2pm, 5.30pm,
The Wedding Singer 1.20pm, 3.40pm,
5.55pm, 8.30pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON
(01932-252625) BR: Walton on Thames
City of Angels 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
The Wedding Singer 3.50pm, 6.35pm,
8.50pm

WELLS HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR:
Eltham Soul Food 3.30pm, 5.55pm,
8.25pm The Wedding Singer 4pm,
6.30pm, 8.50pm

WILLESDEN
BELLEVUE (0181-830 0822)
Willesden Green Jackie Brown
3.30pm, 9.15pm

WOOD GREEN
NEW CURZON WOOD GREEN
(0181-347 6664) BR: Turnpike Lane
Achanak 9pm Duplicate 5pm Ishtu
10.45pm Payer Kya To Dama Kya 2pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) BR: Woodford
City of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm,
8.20pm The Full Monty 1.40pm,
3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Wedding
Singer 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm,
8.30pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR:
Woolwich Arsenal City of Angels
3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Full
Monty 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT
FRANCAIS QUEENSBURY PLACE
SW7 (0171-938 2144) La Reine
Margot (18) 7.30pm

EVERYMAN Hollywood Walk NW3
(0171-435 1525) The Seven Samurai
(12) 1pm, 5pm Still Under Lips (15)
9pm

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647)
Days of Being Wild (15) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274)
Heaven's Gate (18) 1.30pm The Card
(NC) 6.15pm The Jackal (18) 6.20pm
Sikandar (15) 8.20pm Point Blank (18)
8.45pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly
Circuit W1 (0171-494 4153) Everest (12)
11.15am, 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.30pm,
7.35pm, 9.40pm Across the Sea of
Time - A New York Adventure (3-4)
(U) 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm,
8.35pm, 10.40pm

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-883
2233) The Apostle (12) 12.40pm, 6pm
Afterglow (15) 1pm, 3.40pm, 6pm,
8.30pm Sliding Doors (18) 3.40pm,
8.50pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (0171-437 8181) My Son The Fanatic
(15) 2pm, 6.45pm Westerns (15) 9pm

RIO CINEMA Kingsland High Street
E8 (0171-254 8677) Soul Food (15)
3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA
Crisp Road W6 (0181-741 2255) Jules
Et Jim (PG) 6.45pm + Marjoe
Jeanette 8.50pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA
(01273-626261) My Son The Fanatic
(15) 2pm, 6.45pm Westerns (15) 9pm,
8.45pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845)
The Taste of Cherry (PG) 6pm, 8.15pm
Don't Look Back (NC) 6.05pm
Afterglow (15) 8.25pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
Western (15) 12.15pm, 7pm
Washington Square (PG) 2.45pm,
9.30pm Wild Man Blues (12) 5pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE
(01222-399666) The River W7 7.30pm
The Scarlet Tulle (12) 8pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047)
The Big Lebowski (18) 5.45pm
TwentyFourSeven (15) 8.15pm

PLYMOUTH
PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE
(01752-206114) Kundum (12) 8pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

BATH
ABC CINEMA (01225-461730) City
of Angels (12)

LITTLE THEATRE (01225-468822):
The Real Blonde (15); The General (15)

ROBINS CINEMA (01225-461506):
Sliding Doors (15); The Full Monty
(15); The Wedding Singer (12)

BRISTOL
ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191): Some
Like It Hot (U); Live Flesh (18); Great
Expectations (15)

BRISTOL CINEWORLD THE
MOVIES (01275-031089): Anastasia
(U); News Brothers 2000 (PG); Mous-
ehunt (PG); Sliding Doors (15); The Re-
placement Killers (18); Titanic (12);
Mrs Brown (PG); Wishmaster (18);
Dark City (15); The Wings of the Dove
(15); The Wedding Singer (12); Martha
- Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence (15);
City of Angels (12); Sham Ghanasham
(NC); Still Under Lips (15); The Big
Lebowski (18); Star Kid (PG); The Full
Monty (15); Saviour (18); Babe (U);
Deep Impact (12); Paws (PG); Screen 2
(18); The Apostle (12); Sarabans
Daniel Gura Gubind Singh (PG);
A Thousand Acres (15)

ORPHEUS HENLEAZE (0117-
982 1844): Mrs Brown (PG); Star Kid
(PG); Washington Square (PG); The
Full Monty (15); The Wings of the
Dove (15); Sliding Doors (15)

ODEON (0117-929 0882): City of An-
gels (12); Flubber (U); As Good As It
Gets (15); The Wedding Singer (12);
The Land Before Time (U); George of
The Jungle (U)

ABC WHITELEADS ROAD (0117-
973 3640): The Full Monty (15); City
of Angels (12); Sliding Doors (15)

CARDIFF
CAPITOL ODEON (01222-27058):
Mousiehunt (PG); Star Kid (PG); Sat-
urday Night Fever (15); The Wedding
Singer (12); Titanic (12); The Wings of
the Dove (15); Screen 2 (18); Wishmas-
ter (18); Deep Impact (12); Anastasia
(U); Titanic (15); Wild Things (18); Sliding
Doors (15)

ABC CINEMA (0541-555178): Good
Burger (PG); The Grass Harp (PG);
Seven (18); Rides Brothers 2000
(PG); Sliding Doors (15); The Full
Monty (15)

MONICO (01222-693426): Titanic
(12); The Wedding Singer (12); Good
Burger (PG)

CARDIFF MONROE (01222-
461600): Dushmoo (15); Decon-
structing Harry (18)

ODEON (01222-667166): The Wed-
ding Singer (12); City of Angels (12)

CARDIFF UCI 12 (0990-888990):
Wishmaster (18); Sliding Doors (15); Fair-
ytale: A True Story (U); Deep Impact (12);
The Peacekeeper (15); City of Angels
(12); Mousiehunt (PG); Dark City (15);
Titanic (12); Bharat Baharwal (PG);
The Wedding Singer (12); Star Kid (PG);
The Big Swan (18); Jackie Brown (15);
Screen 2 (18); Still Under Lips (15);
Anastasia (U); Oscar And Lucinda (15);
Paws (PG); Red Corner (15);
A Thousand Acres (15); Flubber (U)

IPSWICH
ODEON (01473-287717): Red Cor-
ner (15); The Wedding Singer (12);
Sliding Doors (15); Anastasia (U);
George of The Jungle (U); Deep Im-
pact (12); Spiceworld - The Movie
(PG); Flubber (U); City of Angels (12);
Mousiehunt (PG); Amistad (15)

VIRGIN CINEMA (0870-9070748):
Star Kid (PG); Dark City (15); Still Un-
der Lips (15); Wishmaster (18); The Re-
placement Killers (18); The Wed-
ding Singer (12); Screen 2 (18); Deep Im-
pact (12); Mousiehunt (PG); City of An-
gels (12); Good Burger (PG); Anas-
tasia (U); Red Corner (15); Fairytale:
A True Story (U); Titanic (12); Sliding
Doors (15)

WILD THINGS (18); The Peacekeeper
(15); Anastasia (U); Sliding Doors (15);
Jumanji (PG); Red Corner (15); Still
Under Lips (15); Mousiehunt (PG); Star
Kid (PG); Jeb Pyre Kissle Holo Holo (PG);
Uller's Gold (15); Wishmaster (18)

NOTTINGHAM
ABC CINEMA (0115-947 5260):
The Full Monty (15); Sliding Doors
(15); I Know What You Did Last
Summer (18); Men in Black (PG); The
Man in the Iron Mask (12); The Grass
Harp (PG); Mrs Brown (PG)

ODEON (01426-957022): Dark City
(15); Star Kid (PG); Screen 2 (18); The
Replacement Killers (18); Deep Im-
pact (12); Mousiehunt (PG); City of An-
gels (12); Good Burger (PG); Anas-
tasia (U); Red Corner (15); Fairytale:
A True Story (U); Titanic (12); Sliding
Doors (15)

SAVOY (0115-947 2580): The Wed-
ding Singer (12); Deep Impact (12);
The Full Monty (15); Mousiehunt
(PG); Sliding Doors (15); Titanic (12)

PORTSMOUTH
ABC CINEMA (01705-323338): Flub-
ber (U); Fairytale: A True Story (U);
The Wedding Singer (12); Anastasia (U);
George of The Jungle (U); City of An-
gels (12); Paws (PG); Welcome To Sar-
ajevo (15); Mrs Brown (PG); Wishmas-
ter (18); The Wings of the Dove (15)

ODEON (01705-864823): Flubber
(U); The Wings of the Dove (15); The
Wedding Singer (12); City of Angels
(12); Anastasia (U); Welcome To Sar-
ajevo (15); George of The Jungle (U);
Wishmaster (18); Paws (PG);
Fairytale: A True Story (U)

UCI (0890-888990): Midnight in the
Garden of Good and Evil (15); Slid-
ing Doors (15); The Peacekeeper
(15); The Wedding Singer (12); Mous-
ehunt (PG); Titanic (12); Rides Brothers
2000 (PG); Deep Impact (12);
Anastasia (U); Red Corner (15);
Screen 2 (18); City of Angels (12);
Wild Things (18); Wishmaster (18);
Star Kid (PG)

THE OLD NEIGHBOR-
HOOD David Mamet's new play is
directed by Patrick Marber. Royal Court
(at the Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane,
WC2 (0171-555 5000) & Laic Sq/
Charing X Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat
3.30pm, ES-£19.50, benches 10p,
Mon - all seats £5

MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING Declan Donnellan directs
Cheek By Jowl in a new production of
Shakespeare's classic. Playhouse
Northampton Avenue, WC2 (0171-839
4401)cc 316 4747 & Embankment,
WC2 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat
2.30pm, ES-£23, 135 mins

THE MOUTHERN Agatha
Christie's whodunit, Peter Bowles
and Anna Corbett star in Rajni Bhat's new
translation of Moore's comedy.
Pleasance, Denham Street, W1 (0171-
366 1734) & Pic Circle, in rep, tonight
7.45pm, continuing, ES-£20-£27.50, concs
£12.50, 140 mins

MISS SAIGON Musical which
retells the Madam Butterfly tragedy to
Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane
Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-944 5080)
& Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats
Wed & Sat 3pm, ES-£23-£32.50, 165 mins

THE MOUTHERN Agatha
Christie's whodunit, Peter Bowles
and Anna Corbett star in Rajni Bhat's new
translation of Moore's comedy.
Pleasance, Denham Street, W1 (0171-
366 1734) & Pic Circle, in rep, tonight
7.45pm, continuing, ES-£20-£27.50, concs
£12.50, 140 mins

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today;
times and prices for the week; running
times include intervals. ● - Seats at all
prices ● - Seats at some prices ● -
Returns only Matinees - (T): Sun, (S):
Tue, (W): Wed, (Th): Thu, (F): Fri, (Sa): Sat

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Lavish family musical based on
Disney's cartoon version of the favourite
fairytale. Dominion, Tottenham
Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888)
& Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed
& Sat 2.30pm, £17.50-£32.50,
150 mins

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy
Russell's long-running musical
melodrama about twin brothers who
were separated at birth. Phoenix
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369
1733) & Laic Sq/Tot Ct Rd, Mon-Sat
7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm,
£10.50-£29.50, 165 mins

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical
version of TS Eliot's poems. New
London Park Street, WC2 (0171-405
0072)cc 404 4079 & Covent Gar-
den/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats
Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 165
mins

CHICAGO Ruthie Henshall
stars in this hit Broadway musical about
a pair of murderous women.
Adelphi, Maiden Lane, WC2
(0171-344 0055) & Charing X, Mon-Sat
8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £16-£36
(inc booking fee), 130 mins

CLOSER Superb study of
contemporary sexual relationships from
Dezler's Choice author Patrick Marber.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-
494 5045) & Pic Circle, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, ES-
£27.50, 140 mins

ELTON JOHN'S
GLASSES David Farr's comedy
about one man's obsession with Watford
Football Club and their failure to win the
Cup Final in 1984. Queen's, Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590)cc 344
4444 & Pic Circle, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat
8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm,
£10.50-£27.50

GAS STATION ANGEL Story of two lovers who are fated to meet,
from the creator of House of America. Not
suitable for children. Royal Court
Upstairs (at the Ambassadors) West
Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000)
& Laic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Sat
4pm, ends 27 Jun, ES-£10, benches 10p,
Mon & matinees - all seats £5, 130 mins

GREASE Marissa Dunlop stars
in the stage version of the hit film.
Cambridge, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-
494 5080) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£30,
150 mins

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIV-
E Paula Vogel's drama about the in-
cestuous relationship between the
teenage son and his uncle. Donmar
Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-
369 1732) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat
8pm, mats Thu & Sat 4pm, £12-£16,
concs available

THE ICEMAN COMETH Kevin
Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's
classic testimony to the power of dreams.
Old Vic, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-
369 1732) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat
8pm, mats Thu & Sat 4pm, £12-£16,
concs available

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher
Cazenove and Kate O'Mara
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of
Wilde's comedy. Albany St Martin's Lane,
WC2 (0171-369 1732)cc 867 1111
& Laic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm,
Sat 4pm, ES-£20-£25, 165 mins

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen
Delaney's widely-acclaimed
production of Agatha Christie's thriller.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-494 5085) & Laic Sq, Mon-Fri
7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Wed 2.30pm,
Sat 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins

KAT AND THE KINGS Musical
about a band set in 1950s Cape
Town. Vanderbilt, Strand, WC2 (0171-
836 9887) BR: Charing X, Mon-Sat
8pm, Fri-Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm, ES-
£27.50, 130 mins

A LETTER OF RESIGNA-
TION Hugh Whitemore's play about the
political and political morality.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-369 8888)
& Laic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm,
Sat 4pm, ES-£20-£25, 135 mins

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S
DREAM Classic tale of love and con-
flict set in the fairy kingdom. Open Air
Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431)cc
486 1939 & Baker Street, in rep,
tonight 8pm, ends 5 Sep, ES-£20

LES MISERABLES Musical
dramatisation of Victor Hugo's master-
piece. Palace, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-434 0041) & Pic Circle, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, ES-
£23.50, 195 mins

THE MISANTHROPE Elaine
Patterson, Michael Pennington, Peter Bowles
and Anna Corbett star in Rajni Bhat's new
translation of Moore's comedy.
Pleasance, Denham Street, W1 (0171-
366 1734) & Pic Circle, in rep, tonight
7.45pm, continuing, ES-£20-£27.50, concs
£12.50, 140 mins

MISS SAIGON Musical which
retells the Madam Butterfly tragedy to
Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane
Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-944 5080)
& Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats
Wed & Sat 3pm, ES-£23-£32.50, 165 mins

THE MOUTHERN Agatha
Christie's whodunit, Peter Bowles
and Anna Corbett star in Rajni Bhat's new
translation of Moore's comedy.
Pleasance, Denham Street, W1 (0171-
366 1734) & Pic Circle, in rep, tonight
7.45pm, continuing, ES-£20-£27.50, concs
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7.45pm, continuing, ES-£20-£27.50, concs
£12.50, 140 mins

THE PHANTOM OF THE
OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's
Gothic musical. Her Majesty's
Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400)cc 344
4444 & Pic Circle, Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50,
150 mins

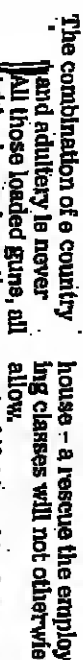
POPCORN Lawrence Boswell
directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema
violence. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-494 5070) & Pic Circle, Mon-Sat
8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, ES-
£23.50, 150 mins

THE REAL INSPECTOR
HOUND & BLACK COMEDY
Double bill of drama about drama from
Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer,
directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy
Pantheon Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731)
& Pic Circle/Laic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £7.50-£27.50,
165 mins

RENT Musical inspired by La
Bohème and set in modern day New York.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2
(0171-379 5393) & Holborn/Tot Ct Rd,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm,
£12.50-£32.50, 160 mins

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
OLIVER: Brassed Off Moving
drama about the horn-blowing miners

TELEVISION REVIEW



BB02

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5

lightly changed each night - they enough last night's sleep to get up in the early a.m. (BBC1)

side with a meek (1)

lived a quiet life in New-
braced living face down in
bracket. Arnold St John
from the injured husband
at least two seasons, the big-
having been pulled out by
him, or the fatherless wife, or
on his custodian - but by
eight-year old son Tom,
no had been subjected to the
it of persistent mental cry-
by which would these days
sent in to a care order and
out section. Personally I
could much have preferred
Tom to have saving the
weapon in the direction of
the bathhouse. Louis, a coronated
but who thinks that putting a
bloody pleasant of the bottom
of the pedestal is a character-bulld-
ing job, but I suppose the
producers feel that infanticide
must be the saddest things a bit
too far in a family show.

And if this attractive
effices you as implausible
then you haven't taken into
account quite how airily self-
descent the grand folks can
be. Per Torm commenting on
the odd changes in her
nephew the child's parents
are away in India. Incapable,
acting head of the household,
is far too busy trying to ensure
Captain Tully-Cry, the
monarchised bouncer who
has been making free with Sir
John's grumpy wife. Appropri-
ately enough quite a few
economy in *Derbyshire* Sutura
are strongly reminiscent of
silent melodrama - with a
heavy reliance on amoulted-
ing probes and expressive
prigs - there was a fine mo-
ment last night when Ned
extracted longly that Metlic's
empty bed and then swivelled
to take in the sampler on the
nursery wall - "Be sure your
girls will find you - I'll be

8:00 News1 Regional News1 Weather (S) (7) (24hr).

10.00 **Men Behaving Badly.** Tony tries converting the garden shed into a sauna. (R) (S) (T) (50005).

10.30 **Harry Enfield.** Dee Lynne, Jimmy Hill and Martin Curran all play themselves. (R) (S) (T) (50734).

10:30 Newnight. *Parment in the house* (T) (B5445).

11:15 FILE Flatline (Joe Schumacher 1990 US). Cheapo medical students play around with near-death experiences and discover that in the alternate life, much of the behavior for the bad things they've done in this one comes back. (TV-14) **Previously**, the cheapo designed bad things like the Kiefer Sutherland *Twisted* and the Robert Downey Jr. *Wanted*. **William Baldwin** (S) (7) (32827753).

FILM OF THE DAY

HERO (9pm, 24, *4pm*) With his seduces of *Whiskey* and Powell/Pressburger's *A Kisser When I'm Going*, director John Huston has made a TV movie that is a masterpiece. In turn went on to influence the TV movie *Forrest Gump*. *Exposure* is still Bill Prey's best film to date. *Exposure* will stand as his greatest achievement, given the director's reported loss of faith in the medium. Peter Onorati, the American oil executive sent by his boss to investigate the disappearance of a ship, is played by the brilliant Lantieri, reprising his well-worn role of the sophisticated (and) to scout Scottish Gaelic village as a place to settle. In a reverse of the expected roles, it's not the man who can't wait to sell up and get out.

**IT'S ALL
ABOUT BALANCE,
PRECISION
AND MOVEMENT.**

ROMIX
Naturally, the Original
Chiropractic
Manipulator. No
Imitation.

VERA

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